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MEMOIR

OF

Mrs. Joanna Turner,

AS EXEMPLIFIED IN

HER LIFE, DEATH,

AND

SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE.

WITH A RECOMMENDATORY PREFACE,

BY THE

REV. D. BOGUE, D. D.

And I heard voice from Heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord, from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.—*Rev.* xiv. 13.

NEW-YORK:
PUBLISHED FOR JOHN MIDWINTER.
J. C. Totten, Printer, 9 Bowery.
1827.

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1899

RECOMMENDATIONS.

Mr. Midwinter,

Sir—I have perused the memoir of Mrs. Joanna Turner, which you are about to re-publish, and have found in it both pleasure and profit.

Her eventful life is interesting and instructive: while it keeps the best feelings of the heart fully and delightfully exercised, it exemplifies in no ordinary degree the power and profit of practical godliness.

Mrs. Turner was an extraordinary woman, richly endowed by divine grace. Engaged in the service of God from early life, in a sphere of action where no common person could have done any thing, she succeeded in doing every thing. The opposition and obstacles, which met her daily, seem only to have ministered to the ardour and energy of her mind, and the healthful exercise of her faith in God her Saviour, so as to have rendered her ascendancy over them all the more conspicuous. She was poor, yet she supported the poor; kept up the stated preaching of the gospel, and built two churches at her own expense, and withal became rich! She sustained great distress of body, not with patience merely, but with fortitude, and peace, and joy. She lived happy and died triumphant. Her example may be very useful to the Christian public, and encouraging to those who would commit themselves to God in well doing.

I hope your labour in making this little book more generally known may be fully remunerated.

I am, sir, with great respect,

Your friend and servant,

THOMAS MC AULEY.

New-York, February 28th, 1827.

I most heartily unite in the above recommendation of the memoir of Mrs. Turner, and in the hope that it may be re-printed and extensively circulated.

WILLIAM MC MURRAY.

New-York, March 3d, 1827.

I concur in the above recommendations.

JAMES MILNOR.

I give my name cheerfully with the above recommendations.

H. J. FELTUS.

I unite most cordially in the above recommendations.

HENRY CHASE.

New-York, March 5, 1827.

I cordially agree with the above recommendations.

JAMES YOUNGS.

New-York, March 7th, 1827.

I have read the memoir of Mrs. Turner with great pleasure, and do most cordially unite in the above recommendations.

CHARLES G. SOMMERS.

Having perused the memoir of the life and death of Mrs. Turner, I do most cheerfully recommend the work, as calculated to promote the cause of true religion.

A. MACLAY.

PREFACE.

THE Life of Mrs. Turner was never before published. It was drawn out by a female friend after her death, and a few copies printed and circulated among her particular friends and acquaintances.

Many to whom it has been lent, and by whom it has been read, have thought it desirable that it should have a more extensive circulation. It certainly affords a striking proof how much may be done for the cause of Christ by a zealous individual, and that with very slender means. Mrs. Turner during the earlier part of her religious profession, possessed little else but her fervent piety and a steady zeal for the propagation of the Gospel, having only the small income of £30 a year; yet she was the happy and highly honoured means of introducing the Gospel into several towns and villages in the county of Wilts.

Pious individuals, placed in a humble and contracted sphere, are apt to say, "*What can I do?*" Read the life of Mrs Turner, contemplate her conduct, and "Go thou and do likewise."

Her Diary which relates to the secret workings of her heart, exhibits the power, efficacy, and benefit of true religion—"the religion of the heart." By it, her thoughts, her affections, her temper and conduct were regulated.

Her heart glowed with love to God, and love to man. She felt deeply for the miseries of her fellow-creatures—for perishing immortal souls; and this feeling excited her to a holy activity, and to unwearied endeavours to rescue them from impending ruin. Her efforts were not unavailing, and her success affords the highest encouragement to pious females to exert themselves in the same benevolent attempts to promote the spiritual and eternal welfare of others.

To attain this honour, however, they must, like her, maintain a close walk and daily communion with God. What our Saviour said to his disciples relative to the performance of a particular miracle, may, perhaps, be applied with propriety on the present occasion—"This kind goeth not forth but by prayer and fasting." God will not crown the attempts of a careless worldly professor of religion with similar success. Before we care for others' vineyards, we must or ought to keep our own—"those only that honour God, God will honour."

That a divine blessing may attend the perusal of this work, and that Christian females may be stimulated to imitate the example of Mrs. Turner, and like the woman mentioned in the Gospel—"Do what they can," is the fervent wish and prayer of

DAVID BOGUE.

April, 1820.

THE

LIFE AND DEATH

OF

MRS. JOANNA TURNER.

MRS. JOANNA TURNER, the subject of the following Memoir, whose memory is so dear to her friends, and whose acquaintance was so inestimable to all who were favoured with it, was the daughter of Mr. John Cook, of Trowbridge, in the county of Wilts, Clothier.

Among her papers, after her decease, was found, written with her own hand, an account of the *early* part of her life; which I will transcribe nearly as she has expressed it, and connect it with the memorable particulars I received, at different times, from her own lips, and from her intimate friends, whose veracity may be depended on; to whom she severally related the same things.

Her narrative begins thus: "I was born A. D. 1732, and began to be unhappy very early, through my proud passionate disposition. When at play, I wanted every thing my own way; or would be affronted and threaten to go away, I well remem-

her, when I did not intend it, that my playmates might stoop to me and entreat me to stay. Oh, what an early hold hath the devil in the human heart; in *mine* I am sure he had; for I bore his image, his superscription!

My Uncle Shrapnell used to tell my Mother she ought to correct me; and more than once, I remember, he himself attempted it when I discovered these tempers at his house; but I cried and held my breath in such a frightful manner, as distressed my tender mother; so that I do not remember she ever corrected or *severely* chid me; nor do I recollect that ever I was subdued or softened by any means of that kind; but on the contrary, was made more furious and desperate by them.

When I was between eight and nine years of age, my dear mother died. I was exceedingly affected at her death. I believed she was happy, but was affrighted for myself lest I should die; and thought much of death, judgment, heaven, and hell. I heard the people about me say, my mother was a good woman; she prayed and read the Scriptures and other good books in her chamber, and received the sacrament constantly. I remember, one Lord's-day, when I and my youngest brother were at home with her, I observed the tears trickle down her cheeks while she read a little book:—I went and kissed her, and looked into it, for I could read when very young, and perceived the TITLE to be, "He will not break the bruised reed." Many years after, when I had a little spiritual light given me, I providentially met with the book,—and found it full of

the Gospel. I doubt not but my mother gave me many good instructions, though I was so very ignorant that I never understood them: but, after her death, I wished and tried to be good; was careful not to tell lies, nor play on the Lord's day.

Having a little book given me, entitled "Prayers for Children," I used these prayers for a long time, with great exactness, praying seven times a day, because, on reading the Psalms, I remarked, David called so often on the Lord. I used to petition for meekness, humility, and the other good dispositions I wanted; striving at the same time, as well as I could, against *anger* particularly, and other sins to which I was tempted. I read of a Roman Emperor, I think it was, who was passionate, and checked the risings of anger by repeating the Greek alphabet; but I thought it would be better for *me* to say the Lord's Prayer. This I did, sometimes, running up into my chamber and falling upon my knees; at other times, repeating it inwardly. I suppose I was observed in this part of my conduct; for I remember to have heard some people say, "I was an extraordinary child." Indeed, the Lord guided me though I did not know him! I learned whatever was appointed me very fast; and liked the company of old people better than childish play, unless my companions would hear me read.

The same relation that gave me my prayer-book presented me with Janeway's *Token for Children*. On reading the Dedication I could not proceed for tears,—but do not remember the stories affected me much at that time: but a little halfpenny book, called

a Christmas Carol, put me upon thinking about the Blessed Saviour,—and though unseen and unknown, I think I did love him!

I was not yet nine years old, but pride then grew very strong; and I was much captivated by dress, —could do any thing, suffer any thing, to be fine. And, as I loved reading, all books of entertainment were perused by me with such a relish, that I could leave every thing but fine clothes, for them, I gradually left off the use of prayer, except night and morning.

When between twelve and thirteen, I was put to a very genteel boarding-school; indeed, too high for my fortune, but as I had a first cousin there, about my own age, her mamma prevailed on my father to send me thither also. My pride and vanity was heightened at the prospect, and constant mortifications were the consequence.

I soon left off praying and reading my Bible; and in short, was never happy but in reading romances, novels, plays, and other books of the devil's inspiring; and more than once attempted to write them myself; so full was I of wickedness at that tender age, not yet thirteen!—But this was not all:—

One of the servants at school wanted to borrow a shilling of me, at a time when all my money was spent, and I was expecting more, but was too proud to tell her I had none: therefore, took an opportunity to steal a shilling out of the drawer of a young lady, who slept in the same chamber with me; hoping it would be in my power to replace it before it would be missed. I do not remember that I had any

painful feelings at the time I stole it, nor any checks of conscience for denying it; which I suppose I did, with the other scholars, when examined upon it: but when I was tried with the bible and key, as was the custom,* to see whose hand shook most; I recollect putting up most earnest petitions, and crying mightily to God, to preserve me from shame. I was afraid I should tremble or blush on examination, and so discover my guilt: but wonderful was the goodness of the Lord, and so it appeared to me at the time, as an answer to prayer, that he did not suffer it to be discovered!—But, seven years afterwards, how did I sorrow for that sin!—I would have given all my substance to have atoned for this sin of my soul!

A letter I received about this time from my brother Coles, with these words in it, greatly affected me,—"I doubt not but you read your Bible and pray; those seeds of early piety, &c. which were so discoverable in you:"—I was filled with anguish, thinking what a hypocrite I was, and how people were deceived in me; for I neither read my Bible nor prayed. I first omitted this duty through shame of being seen by those who slept in the same room with me;—Wretch that I was, to be ashamed of *my duty*, and not ashamed of breaking the Divine *command!* We used to play at cards till midnight for money; and by this way of spending time and money I rushed into the above sin, which I shall never forget; neither my own abominable wickedness, nor the great goodness of the Lord in hearing the prayers of such a sinner, and preserving me from the shame

*A custom which should not be imitated.

and punishment due to my sin. And to this day, when I read or hear of any being guilty of theft, and suffering shame or death, I feel I deserve it; and admire that I am pardoned, and blest above many of my fellow sinners with testimonies of regard, both from God and man;—but it is all of *free grace;* and let none *despair*, since *I have obtained mercy.*

While I was at school my dear father married, and I soon returned home, and was, if possible, more miserable than ever. With every change of situation, I promised myself new happiness; and as I was so much accustomed to read romances, I never wanted for strong expectations and lively ideas of increasing pleasure; and was as constantly disappointed. It pleased the Lord to make use of my mother-in-law, as an instrument to mortify me, and disappoint me, in every thing she could. Observing I wanted to shew away and cut a figure in life, she constantly crossed me in a manner that could not but disgust;—but as she is dead I must be silent, and consider who appointed the rod.

When I was about *seventeen* my dear father died; of whom I cannot recollect that he ever corrected or chid me. He was the most peaceable and calm in his disposition of any man I ever knew. His death greatly affected and afflicted me. I felt myself exposed to the world without a friend; reflected on some whose parents died while they were young, and were *now* extremely wretched, through their taking imprudent steps in extravagancies of some kind or other. Surely mercy and goodness hath followed

me; my ways have been wonderfully hedged up!—For, now I was become my own mistress, and might do as I pleased, I was filled with such fear, care, and caution over my conduct, that nothing appeared to me *amiable* or worth *pursuing*, but to live and act right. I wanted to learn economy, prudence and neatness; and to improve myself in every thing that was useful.

About this time a remarkable thought fastened upon my mind:—"that my dear mother, who had been dead near ten years, was a guardian angel to me, and was a witness to every thing I said and did; and I really wished and endeavoured to do, what, if she were living, I thought would please her; I went to church constantly on Lord's-days, and frequently on prayer-days; and almost constantly wept when that part of the Litany was read which mentions "*fatherless children;*" no other part of the service affected me like that!

As soon as we could settle our affairs, my youngest brother was put apprentice; my eldest brother lived by himself: and I bless God, that I was taken by my dear brother Coles to board with him, who worshipped God with his family. Here I met with religious books: immediately began to read them, and to throw aside my vain romances. Some, which were my own, I burnt; observing an example set me in the Acts of the Apostles, and finding at times an inclination to them, I thought it best to destroy them.

My brother's books were a great help to me; and I began to understand them, and likewise to attend

closely to preaching. A good woman that ironed at my brother's, was also made useful to me by talking to me on religious subjects. I became now deeply convinced of sin: that I was conceived in it, and that every duty, the best that I could perform—reading, praying, giving alms, talking of religion, &c. &c. When I came to reflect upon it, as I constantly did afterwards, notwithstanding all my endeavours, I saw sin, like the dead fly in the apothecary's ointment, caused all to send forth a stinking savour. Oh, the anguish and grief I felt on account of sin! I earnestly wished to repent and truly mourn before God.

I then left off praying with a form, and cried from my heart for mercy. I endeavoured to be better, but as often as I attempted to amend, so often did I offend again, and again grieve and mourn. At last I was afraid to speak; for it was with my tongue I did most constantly offend, in speaking what I ought not, or not speaking what I should. After a common conversation, in which perhaps I have had but a very small share, one word would appear to me to have so much sin in it, that I have feared I could never be pardoned, and have thought God could not be just without sending me to hell for it, and often expected the earth to open and swallow me up. My thoughts, likewise, were brought to the bar of conscience and condemned; I was greatly concerned because I could not be always thinking upon heavenly and divine things, and about the concerns of my soul. By day, when alone, I was reading or praying; by night, whenever I awoke, I

rose to pray: and if I could not fix my thoughts in meditation, I repeated to myself some chapters I had learned out of the Bible, and select pieces of sacred poetry, particularly, out of "Watts' Lyric Poems." Such scriptures as these, at times, afforded me refreshment;—"Come, and let us reason together, saith the Lord, though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow, &c."—Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts, &c." But this portion of holy writ alarmed me much;—"Can the Ethiopian change his skin and the leopard his spots, &c." No sin distressed me so much as stealing the shilling while at school, and some halfpence from some near relations, at different times; I thought I was the greatest sinner that ever breathed, and that it was a mercy the laws of the land had not been executed upon me; that I deserved condemnation from God and man. I was, notwithstanding, sweetly comforted by that scripture,—"Let him that stole, steal no more; but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth;" This word, I supposed, suited my case; because I thought it was necessity drove me to steal, and that I had not strength to resist the temptation.

I now began to amend my conduct; I refrained from *idle* visits to work for my relations and poor people; and added works of mercy to my industry, by giving away all the money I could spare; but nothing could satisfy my guilty conscience; "Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them;" and

"He that offendeth in *one* point, is guilty of all;"—constantly rang in my ears. I acknowledged that my condemnation was just; and though in hell, in endless torments, I thought I must acquit God of the least injustice! But O thought I, if He would shew *mercy* and would be pleased to *forgive* me, how I should *love* him! Indeed I loved him for his goodness already bestowed in keeping my soul out of hell, in sparing me from the shame my sins deserved!

One day I read a sermon, I have forgot by whom, on this text,—"Who was made a curse for us, for it is written, cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree;" and the veil of my heart was rent; my eyes were anointed with the divine eye-salve: *I believed*: I saw the blessed Lamb of God was *my* Surety and *my* Saviour; that for *me* his blessed hands and feet were pierced, and his side opened;—that he suffered death for *my* sins, and wrought out a righteousness for *me*;—that God the father accepted *me* in his beloved Son;—and that he was just in justifying such an ungodly wretch as I was!

From this blessed time I was a new creature indeed; had new *sight*, new *feeling*, new *faculties!* My language was, "Bless the Lord, O my soul! who forgiveth all thine iniquities, who healeth all thy diseases!" I gained spiritual strength to run in the ways of God's commandments. All earthly enjoyments were lighter than vanity in my eyes, and Jesus was the chiefest of ten thousand in my sight. I wondered I had never seen these things before, was astonished at my former ignorance, and transported with my present discoveries!

I saw Christ in the scape-goat—in the city of refuge—and throughout the Old Testament; whereas, formerly, I could not discern any thing of him but in the four Evangelists. Now, the eighth of Romans, and many chapters in St. John, Isaiah, the Psalms, the Epistles to the churches, and, indeed the whole Bible, were "sweeter to me than the honey or the honey-comb."

A book my brother used to read on a Sunday evening, descriptive of the marks of the new birth, was made very useful to me at this time. O, how rejoiced was I, on examining myself, to find that, through the abounding grace of God, I had the marks! And there was a form of the soul's covenanting, or giving itself up to God, which the author recommended. I did it with great solemnity, and signed it with my name. I had it upon my mind to prick myself and sign it with my blood, in token of my love and zeal; what prevented I cannot remember. The words of the Covenant ran thus:

THE COVENANT.

"O Lord God! the maker of heaven and earth; by whose word, and for whose glory, I and all creatures were made! I am now come to acknowledge thee as the author of my being, the preserver of my life and the giver of every good thing I enjoy; and, therefore, do now submit myself to thee as my rightful owner, and sovereign Lord and Father! I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy child; I shall think myself highly honoured, and very happy, if thou wilt receive me as one of thy meanest servants!

"I bring thee a creature of thine own, that has been straying from thee! This soul and body, now prostrate at thy foot-stool, I humbly offer unto thee; that thou mayest go over thy work again, and create me anew after thine own image; and so will I be thy faithful servant as long as I live!

"O BLESSED JESUS! If thou wilt now take my part and plead my cause with thy Father, I am ready to profess myself thy disciple upon thine own terms; and to follow thee, if my heart do not deceive me, whithersoever thou goest! I do sincerely give up myself to thy teaching and instruction: O, give me understanding, that I may know the truth as it is in Jesus! I do unfeignedly consent to thy government, and, with a mind willing to obey thee, I can now say, 'Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?'

"I will ascribe all the honour of my salvation to thy meritorious death, and powerful intercession! In thee *alone* will I repose my trust; and now, if my Lord, will undertake that his *grace* shall be sufficient for me, there is nothing too difficult to attempt, or too much to suffer for thee! I do enlist myself under thy banner as the great Captain of my salvation: affrighted at myself, to think that I have been so long under the power and tyranny of the Devil, whom I desire, from this moment, to resist to the uttermost.

"I am persuaded that *this* world is nothing but vanity and vexation of spirit; and therefore shall set myself, by thy help and according to thy example, to conquer it and bring it into subjection! I have found my own heart corrupt, wicked, and deceitful; and therefore shall no longer manage for myself;

but shall rejoice to give up every thought, will, and affection entirely to thee! I am now desirous to be thine, O Lord, so as not to be another's; thine, and not the world's; thine, and not my own!

"To THEE, O HOLY SPIRIT! do I acknowledge myself indebted for these and all other good inclinations: and that I may be enabled to hold my present purposes, and to improve in a holy heavenly disposition of mind, I now cast myself upon thee, for all that direction and assistance which my circumstances may require! Henceforward, I shall yield up myself to thy conduct and influences; and shall make it my care, to attend to all thy motions and convictions, both in performing my duty, and abstaining from sin; and so do those things which may be well pleasing to thee, O FATHER, SON, AND SPIRIT, with my whole heart!

"I desire, freely and fully, to devote myself to thee; choosing thee for my everlasting portion, and purposing to serve thee, as my supreme Lord and Master, whilst I have a being. And, as a proof of my sincerity, and of my ardent desire to make good such a profession, I am willing to bind myself, by setting my hand to all this; that it may be a witness for or against me, as I behave myself agreeably or disagreeably to what I now do!

JOANNA COOK."

In transcribing this I find great cause of shame to myself, that I have so ill performed my part: but "the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth from all sin;" and how gracious, and constantly good and faithful

hath the Lord been! He hath never failed once, in admonishing, teaching and quickening me; but though to me belong shame and confusion of face, yet do I rejoice that I gave myself up to the Lord!

I am not certain, she rejoins, that every thing is here mentioned in the exact order of time. I should have mentioned the texts of scripture that convinced me it was wrong to read romances, &c. Rev. xxii. 15. "Whosoever loveth and maketh a lie shall not enter into the new Jerusalem," was one. These texts too were much upon my mind; "Separate yourselves, come out from amongst them; touch not the unclean thing, and I will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty;" "not in rioting and drunkenness, &c. &c."— "whether ye eat or drink, or whatever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

Besides these texts of scripture, I had an awful thought about this time,—"That I was liable to death every moment; and that I should not like to die at an idle visit, nor in a ball room, nor at a card table, nor in a play-house." I easily left dancing; my relations were not fond of balls, and visiting they excused me from, as I was more usefully employed at home; but my dressing in a manner becoming a woman professing godliness, they were very much against!"

Thus far we are indebted to her own pen; and doubtless, if she had begun to write upon the subject sooner, or had not been prevented by her growing indisposition, she would, for the information of her friends, especially her affectionate husband who

urged her much to do it, have given us the various changes and events of her life, in their order; but at the same time, modesty and humility would have prevented her mentioning several things which, for the glory of God, for the comfort and encouragement of his people, and in justice to so excellent a character, I think ought to be made public.

In this small unfinished account, Mrs. Turner gives of the *early* part of her life, she says, she is not certain that she has mentioned every thing in the exact order of time. It appears, from her journals, and the letters we have received from her various correspondents, that the *gay* world became, once more, the object of her attention; even after she had been under the most serious convictions of sin, despairing of forgiveness, and thinking God could not be just without sentencing her to hell; and had been set at liberty from this condemning power of the law, by a gospel sermon, and was enabled to cry out, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, who forgiveth all thine iniquities!" &c.—And that her attachment to the fashionable amusements of the age was as strong as ever: she being, as I have been told by her most intimate friends, the ring-leader in all the vain amusements of the town; going from house to house to get a party for the ball, the card-table, or for hearing read some pernicious romance or frothy novel;—and nothing of the kind seemed well ordered among her intimates, unless JOEY COOK were present.

That *pride* and *vanity* had likewise the ascendancy in her heart is very discoverable; and, from the universal esteem in which she was held by her ac-

quaintance, her company was continually courted; and from her *complexional* vivacity, good sense, genteel carriage and gay appearance, she conveyed pleasure wherever she went.

In these seasons, pride made her emulous, and disappointment made her wretched. She has acknowledged, with the deepest abasement of soul, that till she was converted, she could scarcely bear the sight of any whose person and dress were superior to her own. And it has been observed, by some who well knew her, that she endeavoured to excel all her acquaintance, in the gaiety of her clothing, the elegance of her taste, the poignancy of her wit, the politeness of her address, and the agreeableness and vivacity of her conversation.

But, while she was in the full possession of the esteem and admiration of her acquaintance, and taking her fill of time-wasting pleasures, which are accounted *innocent* because not condemned by the world, Conscience would not let her enjoy happiness *within*, or suffer her to rejoice in iniquity: but on the contrary, constrained her to *mourn* and *weep* before the Lord in secret!—As may be gathered from a journal written in her twenty-eighth year, an extract from which is here subjoined.

Nov. 1, 1758. "It hath pleased the Lord to lay on me the rod of affliction, to visit me with weakness of body; but oh, how *light* the stroke, how *gentle* the correction! Lord, thou mightest have continued those racking pains I have so lately felt—but thou dost not delight to afflict the children of men! In the midst of judgment thou rememberest mercy! O,

sanctify this dispensation of thine to me—teach me submission to thy will—humble and melt this proud obdurate heart of mine—draw off my affections from the world, from every thing that hinders communion with thee; and O, may I say, 'speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth!'

Methinks I now hear those divine chidings from thee—'O daughter,' (for I would still trust in the sacred relation) 'how hast thou abused the mercies of health and ease that I have bestowed on thee! What tributes of praise and glory have I received from thee? Hast thou not, like Jeshurun, waxed fat and kicked? Hast thou not served my worst enemies; let out thine heart, which is mine by the strongest claims, to the world, the flesh and the devil; who, by turns, have ensnared and enslaved it? O, how is thy beauty spoiled by this vile servitude! how different art thou now, from the day of thy first espousals; when I adorned thee with the robe of righteousness, with the jewels of mercy and forgiveness of sin!—But yet, 'I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee:'—'The Heavens may depart, and the mountains be removed, but my love shall not depart from thee;' Almighty grace shall rescue thee! Return, O backsliding daughter; I will 'heal thy backslidings; will receive thee graciously, and love thee freely!'"

About this period of her life she gives an account of some journies of pleasure, for a month or two, that she made to London and Bristol. And, by what we see of her inward teachings, it appears, she had all the blessed doctrines of the Gospel in her

head; that they were a stay to her soul in an hour of danger; that she did, at times, experience the sweet influences of religion on her heart, so as to take comfort in the unchangeable love of God through Christ, in the all-sufficiency of his blood to atone for her sins, and the purity of his life to justify her person, and present her faultless before his Father's glory. But it is evident, from those papers, that she had not duly examined, nor entered into the full meaning of the apostle's assertion, when he says, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." For though she seemed to be convicted of sin if she did not begin, go through, and close the Lord's day entirely in the Spirit; yet she scrupled not to begin the next day, go through and end the week, with walking after the flesh, in vain amusements, private parties of cards and dancing, or in public places of pleasure, such as Tunbridge-wells, White-conduit-house, Vauxhall, &c. &c.

At the same time she sought out and heard, on the Lord's days, some of the most lively and faithful gospel preachers: examining her own heart, and lamenting its departures from God, in the most pathetic manner; but did not, as yet, see the duty of carrying the Sabbath through the week, which is the privilege of believers, in momentarily asking for a blessing on the common actions and employments of life; begging the presence of the King of kings with us through all, and thus resting in his love and faithfulness continually: for thus she remarks on the first Sabbath she spent in London:—

"Sunday, July the third;—My thoughts too full of vanity and distraction for the sacred exercises of the day, and I find pleasure a greater enemy to devotion than business, which I have been long groaning under!

"A desired dispensation from worldly cares is now experienced; but what is the effect of this privilege on my heart? My heart, I find, is still firmly attached to this world; my affections how grovelling! my thoughts, words, and actions are as guilty, as impure as ever! I dressed myself with too much care, and too great a desire to be noticed in the sanctuary of my God: Gracious Lord, forgive the impious attempt; frustrate the bold design, and lay not iniquity to my charge, for thy dear Son's sake!

"This afternoon Mr. Jones prayed in a remarkably affecting manner; and Mr. M——— preached the sacred mysteries of the Gospel, which we are ignorant of till the Spirit move on our hearts, as on the waters of old. Spiritual truths are only spiritually discerned; the natural man is ignorant of them, and accounts them foolishness. He preached the doctrine of regeneration, from John the third to the tenth verse; proved the necessity of being born again, and exhorted all to self-examination, in order to know if this saving change had been wrought in their hearts; comforted the experienced believer, and awfully warned the bold daring offender."

The next day we shall find her at a ball, admiring the ladies' dresses, and delighted with her neice's superior skill in dancing. And after spending the whole week in the same manner, we find her again

on the Lord's day at church, taking down the heads of Mr. Jones' discourse, and making these truly spiritual remarks:—

"Mr. Jones preached and prayed *extempore* like the Dissenters:—O, may he be a happy means of uniting brethren in one faith! It is not what church, but what spirit we are of, that is essential to the salvation of our souls! A bigoted and uncharitable spirit, is an unchristian spirit: for Christ said 'To love God with all our heart, and mind, and strength, and our neighbour as ourselves, are the commandments on which hang all the law and the prophets!' That faith only is good which is productive of good works: and wherever I see this mark of Gospel love in professors, of whatever denomination, there I must adore the goodness of God thus remarkably displayed in the sanctification of a sinner!

"We read of the saints in glory being chosen out of all nations and languages of men, and much more different denominations of Christians; and shall I be angry with my neighbour for adopting a different opinion from myself? Blessed Jesus, may I, the unworthiest of thy creatures, who still sin with an high hand and an outstretched arm, and who thus, as it were, grasp at sin and folly, be rescued by Almighty grace from the error of my ways! I fly to thy blood to wash my polluted nature clean! may my hard heart be softened in the fountain of love; may I dive into its depth, adore its height, till my whole soul be filled with love! Lord, thou knowest my weakness, my folly, the

strength of corruptions under which I groan; and my temptations from the pleasures, the riches, and vanities of this bewitching world! O, shew it me as a howling wilderness beset with thorns, dens, and pits; strip it of its borrowed appearance! O, my all-sufficient Saviour! guard, O guard me by the influences of thy Spirit, from the wickedness, the treachery of my own sinful and corrupt heart!

Lord, I would mourn over pride and envy at wealth and grandeur; hypocrisy, having a form of godliness without the power; I would mourn over the sins of my heart; my thoughts, which are all known to thee, my waste of time, my abuse of talents, my small regard to truth, justice and sobriety! My words and actions, how odious in thy sight! How formal, how cold my prayers; how often do I neglect my attendance at thy foot-stool! My knowledge of thee, how small, how contracted; nay, I question, at times, whether I have ever been enlightened! My want of faith, Lord, I would mourn over with tears of blood, which, if it were possible, should burst from this ungrateful heart, which has added perjury* to its other crimes! How often have I sworn to be the Lord's, thy sealed fountain, thy sealed garden! But, 'Thou art the Lord that passest by transgressions;' nay, that throwest them behind thy back, and buriest them in the depth of the sea: Thou art unchangeable in thy love!"

The next week we find her pursuing the world and its vain amusements with as much eagerness

* Breaking her covenant with God.

and relish, as if she had never been convicted of sin and folly, nor known the joys of religion, or the terrors of a guilty conscience.

But the Lord graciously rouses her again, the next Sabbath, by awakening her from her sleep, at three in the morning, with the alarm of a dreadful fire, near enough to see its raging flames from the door; for thus she remarks:—

"I went to the door and surveyed the awful flames, which seemed to approach us in defiance of firemen and engines. The sparks, in general, appeared to fly almost to the clouds; and each one, if commissioned by the Almighty power, was capable of spreading the desolation far and wide. Good God! how weak, how impotent is man; whose designs and substance thou canst blast with one breath of thy nostrils. We, thy wretched, sinful creatures, deserve thy judgments: but oh, thou that inhabitest eternity, restrain the fury of this raging element, stop the progress of these spreading flames, for thy dear Son's sake, through whom we receive every blessing; and to whom, with thyself and blessed Spirit, be praise and glory through the endless ages of eternity!

Oh, what a sweet satisfaction is there in confiding in an Almighty God, in the greatest danger! who says, 'when thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee, and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee; when thou passest through the fire, thou shalt not be burnt, neither shall the flames kindle upon thee:' that is, thy God, in covenant, will remember thee in all thy distressing circum-

stances; and will deliver thee from, or support thee under them.

Oh, what a divine voice was that which said, 'According to thy faith, so be it unto thee!' See, the fire is alleviating, is abating! the morning breaks and pours forth her light, and lessens the horrors of the prospect: several kind neighbours return and assure us there is no danger to our habitation; my fearful companion begins to recover herself at this account. We stayed, talking and listening, till after five o'clock, and no more signs of fire appearing, retired again to rest, praising the Lord for his goodness.

In the forenoon, heard Mr. ———, preach on the privileges of being children of God; a privilege that cometh not by nature nor inheritance; for 'as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.' O Blessed Spirit, be thou my guide, my director; take possession of my soul; purge it of its dross, its filthiness—of inordinate affection, vain imaginations; purify my heart; change the irregular sinful inclinations of my soul, and enable me by faith to cry—*Abba* Father!"

Mr. Jones, the excellent Mr. Jones, edified us in the afternoon with preaching on one of Elisha's miracles. But the amusements of the week spoiled all her good impressions; as may be seen by her complaints on the next and some succeeding sabbaths.

"July the seventeenth, Mr. Green obliged us with another discourse on a former text; but my thoughts were too wandering to recollect the particulars of the sacred subject. Blessed Jesus, when shall I be freed

from the power, the worse than Egyptian bondage and slavery, of a vain mind: when shall I be brought into the glorious liberty of the children of God! Corruptions, how deeply are they rooted! Vanity how has it fixed its empire in my captive heart, a slave to sin! The world, the flesh and the devil, have bound it in triple bands; have enervated and weakened all its capacities to love and serve thee; are continually enticing it with temptations too strong for flesh, weak, frail, feeble flesh, to resist; are setting up idols of riches, honour, beauty, or some other earthly deity, which I profanely worship in opposition to thy divine law!

Wrest me, O wrest me, All-powerful Redeemer, from the jaws of sin in all its shapes and disguises! Set up thy standard in my soul; take possession of all its avenues, and display the banner of redeeming love! Drive the cursed fiends of pride, vanity, envy, hypocrisy, lying and deceit, from their strong holds! Rule, O glorious Redeemer, rule and reign in thine own dominions! Hast thou not purchased me with a price, become my surety, and suffered the punishment due to my sins; purchased the sanctifying influences of thy Spirit for me, a rebellious sinner! Open the door of my heart, spread its folding leaves, and let the King of Glory take possession of his own, and rule and reign over me for ever!

Mr. Jones in the afternoon, made a delightful sermon on another of Elisha's miracles: The miserable state of the poor widow he compared to the wretched condition of all mankind by nature: her two sons were, flesh and spirit; the creditors, God's justice,

and Elisha a type of Jesus Christ. An excellent spiritual discourse he made: O may it be profitable to my soul, and to all that heard him! He exhorted to trust in God in the greatest extremities and afflictions: Here was an eminent example of a widow and her fatherless children being relieved by an interposing providence: Though now we are not to expect miracles, yet God will accomplish his promises to all that trust in him: "Himself," he said, "was an instance; no circumstances in life could be more miserable, more deplorable than his were; yet he was provided for infinitely beyond his expectations!" And myself am another instance: How have I experienced the loving-kindness of the Lord! should I withhold my testimony, how great my ingratitude!

Sunday the 14th. Dressed in my new gown, my thoughts too much engrossed on that account; pride, vanity and a desire to please, my reigning vices. Mr. ——, preached in the morning, the reviving doctrine of "Mercy shall be built up for ever:" and in the afternoon, heard the same minister from those words of David, "unless thy law had been my delight I should have perished in my trouble."

Coming home, met Miss Harrison; prevailed on her to drink tea with me, and promised to go with her to the Tabernacle: by the influence of this lady, had a commodious seat in a gallery behind the pulpit. So vast a concourse of people, in so small a spot, I never saw before; and all so attentively serious, I thought it a happiness to be admitted into the number! they sung a hymn with great devotion,

and afterwards Mr. Whitefield prayed earnestly for all states and conditions of men. Indeed, it was an excellent prayer! but my heart was sadly out of tune; and jarred amidst the heavenly concert of the praises and adorations of the saints!

My prayer was, "O may I catch the sacred flame, kindle it, dear Lord Jesus, in my soul; O, may this be a happy opportunity! the text was, "For behold the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven, and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble; and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch: but unto you that fear my name, shall the Sun of Righteousness arise, with healing in his wings!"

He shewed who the proud were, the proud in heart, whether poor or rich: but the proud here meant particularly, are they who will not disclaim the merit of their own works, that will not fly to Christ as their only hope.

He addressed the sinner with great affection: invited him earnestly to come to Christ for salvation, and warned him of his danger in the most awful and convincing manner. He called upon the backsliding Christian,—O my soul, how particularly, how earnestly, did he call upon thee to return to thy first love! How justly did he call thy present state, an eclipse! that the earth was gotten between thee and the Sun of Righteousness, and prevented the darting of his salutary beams into thy soul, so necessary to guide thy corrupt heart! Lord perform the promise on which thou hast caused me to hope, "Return, thou

backsliding daughter; I will heal thy backslidings, will receive thee graciously and love thee freely !"

I bless God for some feeble glimmerings of redeeming love darted into my benighted soul: O, may it increase into a blaze; and may "the Sun of Righteousness arise with healing in his wings !"

Monday the 15th—Heard my uncle Shrapnell was at the point of death,—awful news !—O may it affect my heart, not by venting a flood of tears, but—may the providence be a sanctified affliction ! O may I rely, with greater firmness, on the Almighty all-sufficient fountain, when the streams of creature-comforts are cut off!

In losing my uncle, I lose a valuable friend whom I loved with a filial affection, whose advice was revered, and instructions obeyed, though ever so contrary to my own inclinations; as believing he was a much better judge than myself. How glaringly sinful is my conduct ! Conscience, how strong thy convictions ! Shall man, erring man, liable like thyself to mistakes, and of like passions with thyself, shall he be confided in, obeyed and served from principles of love, and art thou distrustful of the Great Jehovah ?—How large his promises, how small thy faith; how great his love, how weak thy belief; his kindness unspeakable, and thy heart untouched ! By it thou hast been holden up from thy birth, and how ungrateful thy returns to this inexpressible love !—

—Did ever pity stoop so low,
Dress'd in divinity and blood!
Was ever rebel courted so,
With groans of an expiring God !

Again he lives, he spreads his hands;
Hands that were nail'd to torturing smart
By these dear wounds he says, and stands
And prays to clasp thee to his heart!

A coach stops at the door, my cousin is returned in safety! I was afraid to ask for my uncle, but had the pleasure of hearing he was still alive, and his heart in heaven, fixed on the promises of God from eternity to eternity. O the divine support our heavenly Physician dispenses to his afflicted patients! What abundant reason have we, in all circumstances of life, to fly to and to depend on, the all-sufficient, ever-present God!

Friday the 19th—At night, while my cousin was returning thanks for the mercies of the day, with his family, we were alarmed by a violent ringing at the door. A porter brought the melancholy news of the death of my dear uncle Shrapnell, a loss which I have long expected. O, may those that are mourners under it, be comforted!—"The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away, and blessed be the name of the Lord!"

The next sabbath she goes to public worship twice, but takes no notice of the sermons; and the day following seems filled with vanity on account of sitting for her picture. The next Sunday her thoughts seem wholly taken up with her new mourning, produces not so much as a pious resolution. And the next day, she remarks, she had the pleasure of seeing the ladies dance; is employed all the week in providing genteel mourning, a rich black silk; ordering a ring on the occasion, and other gew-gaws. And

not till Sunday the thirty-first did she seem to have so much as one serious thought to pass her mind; then, her usual sabbath convictions revived once more, which she expresses thus:—

"Sunday, the thirty-first; indulged myself too much in sleep; and encouraged waste of time by dressing with too much care. O the sacrilege I am* weekly guilty of, and of which I am as constantly repenting, stealing from the Almighty the sacred time he has commanded to be appropriated to his worship and service! How light and vain are my first thoughts on waking; how difficult is it to draw them from vanity, and fix them on suitable solemn objects!† How does the world, the creature, engross my attention even in the presence of the King of kings! How do my eyes wander in search of pleasing objects; of glaring dress, fashions and a thousand vanities!"

In the afternoon she hears the celebrated Mr. Romaine; his text, Solomon's Song—"Set me as a seal "upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm:"—She is pleased and edified, and cries out in rapture, "O! what an advantage do the people of London enjoy, of having the doctrines of the gospel preached faithfully, with zeal and affection!—Blessed be God that there are ministers in the established church, as well as many in the other denominations, that will not hold their peace for Zion's sake; that they are

* She might have said daily.

† Is it any wonder, when the week had been spent in vanity and folly?

not all "blind watchmen, dumb dogs"—that will not bark to give warning of approaching danger!"

In her thirtieth year, which was in 1762, she writes thus to a friend:—"When the Lord called me out from among the broad-way multitude, to be separated, and not to touch the unclean thing, and he would be a father unto me, and I should be his daughter," many years ago—I halted, shamefully halted, between two opinions! Nay, after I hoped I had sincerely closed in with Christ; received him on his own terms, as my prophet, priest, and king; and had tasted that the Lord is gracious, with humility, the deepest humility, I would speak it, I wanted to reconcile God and mammon; to serve God, so as not to displease man! O impious attempt; what a mercy I was not made a similar example to that of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram!

"And yet, here I am, a monument of mercy! When I took up Esther's resolution, "If I perish I perish"—and met with a much kinder reception than Esther, for a whole kingdom would not have satisfied me, nor a whole world—No, nothing but an assurance that Christ was mine; then I said, I would have no more to do with the accursed thing, that I would hold my integrity, and that none of these things should move me, I, for some time, "sat under his shadow, with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste!"—But Oh, what darkness, what thick darkness have I groped in, since, at times! Such sinks of corruption in my heart, and such sinfulness in my best duties, that I thought I had but deceived myself; and that no saving change had

been wrought in me!—I feared offending the creature, on which my affections were immoderately fixed!"—

Hence we may gather that she was a grievous backslider in heart, after she had been enlightened in the way of salvation by Jesus Christ, and had "tasted that the Lord is gracious." By paying too much attention to the world, and too little to the convictions of her own conscience; for several years, she was "unstable as water:"—sometimes she appeared to be taught of the Spirit of God, and to hearken to his word; at other times she grieved him, and, by drinking into the spirit of the world, quenched his motions.

For several years, ten at least, she attended to the outward exercises of religion constantly, on the Lord's-day; and frequently on the week-days: and while at church, if her eye wandered to observe other people's dress; a liberty she was apt to take, as may be seen by her journal; she would shut them immediately, that her mind might be entirely abstracted from earthly objects, and devoted to God. And being convinced, that after prayer and the word preached, she ought not to hazard the loss of the good impressions she received by unnecessary salutations, and idle conversation in her way home; she made it a rule to quit the church immediately after service, and walk home by herself.

Thus she repeatedly resolved to break with the world, and as repeatedly broke her resolutions: for still the fear and love of the creature prevailed, till

at last she was brought, a second time, into the depths of despair. Her convictions of sin became so great, and her distress thereupon so exquisite that, for two years, she was under continual terror: and frequently imagined, as she walked the streets in her gay attire, that the earth would open and swallow her up; and while in this agony of mind, she scarce refrained from weeping two hours together! She thought she had sinned beyond forgiveness; and that "it was impossible," according to scripture, Heb. vi. 4—8, that she should be "renewed again unto repentance"—because she had "crucified the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame"—by her worldly conformity,—"after she had been enlightened in the knowledge of the truth, had tasted of the heavenly gift, been made a partaker of the Holy Ghost; and had tasted of the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come." And, from the keenest anguish of soul, she could say—

> "All deaths, all tortures in one pang combin'd,
> Are little to the torments of the mind!"

As the work of grace gained ground in her heart; carnal company and conversation became more and more disagreeable to her: she therefore turned from those who formerly afforded her pleasure, to associate with the most spiritual people she could meet with, who were, for the most part, poor. The only one of her own rank in life, she could at present find consolation in conversing with, was, a gentlewoman with whom she had often disputed in favour of balls

cards, plays and other amusements which she used to call innocent; and by whose arguments she was always foiled.

Had she yielded to the earliest convictions she received in those disputes, it would have prevented much sorrow: but the fear of man, and love of the praise of men, and her personal attachments, were so strong; that it was with the utmost difficulty she could deny herself in, and make a necessary sacrifice of, those particulars. But the Lord, in love to her soul, would not permit her to possess peace in any of her former connections: the more she sought to please the creature, the more did the distress of her soul increase.

She attended the ministry of the word with professors of different denominations: but she could not find the consolations she wanted in any place of worship to which she went. Though she sometimes heard ministers whose doctrines suited cases like hers, yet she received no encouragement.

Going one day into the house of one of her brother's sheermen, she found the good man employing his meal-hour in teaching one of his children to read the Bible; while he fed the youngest, who was sitsitting on his knee—his wife being at hand, sick and helpless. Surely thought she, this man is greater than that emperor, who said—He had "lost a day if it were not well-spent!" She inquired of him how he was enabled to fill up time so piously and profitably; and obtained much edification and pleasure by his reasonable and scriptural discourse.

She took occasion to converse with him again; and

by him was introduced to a society of poor people, who met at each other's houses, Sunday mornings, to read and pray together. This was the company in whom her soul now delighted, and for whom she cheerfully parted with her gay acquaintance; at the same time bearing testimony against their vain amusements, as tending only to waste time and dishonour God.

We need not wonder to hear, by this time, that the singularity of her conversation and conduct gave great offence; and it is easy to guess who were offended by it. It should not be matter of surprise to find her most intimate friends, and even those who made some claim to the discoveries and enjoyments of religion, tempted to disapprove her associating so much with the religious poor. By such persons she was treated with coolness, reserve and neglect; the reverse of former kindness and affection, without the least reason being assigned for such change of behaviour.

To a person of her sensibility, the abatement, much more the alienation, of the affection of friends, must be peculiarly afflicting!—She felt it so: nor was she, at the same time, without such inward conflicts as are common to every stage of the christian progress. Recollecting the exercises of this period of her life, in order to magnify the grace of God in her deliverance out of her complicated distresses, she writes thus to a friend in the year 1762:—

"What am I, that I should be honoured with the prayers and fellowship of the people of God, of different denominations, that I, unworthy I, should be

favoured with dear Miss B——n's correspondence! O pray, and praise for me, my much valued friend! A few months ago I was in the depths of misery: my Lord had withdrawn himself, and the whole creation could not satisfy me, it was all uncomfortable, and I was all gloomy ;—" my stroke was heavier than my groaning !"

I went from one house of God to another—it was the winter before last when I was at Bristol—I went to the tabernacle, betook myself to a private corner and heard dear Mr. Adams preach from Isaiah xliv. 17.—I was the poor and needy at that time, and the promise has been remarkably fulfilled to me: for besides mourning for an absent God, a bosom friend, a religious friend, with whom there had been the greatest intimacy, grew surprisingly cool to me, without assigning any reason for it; and on my requesting one, I received a very unkind answer.

I thought she saw something in me too bad to be forgiven, and so would not tell me of it: that my pretences to religion were all hypocrisy, or so dear and good a creature could not treat me in such a manner; it must be just in her I thought—I could not think she acted wrong; so much was I wrapt up in the creature. But every stream was cut off to drive me to the fountain, and now the streams run again, and there is so much delightful sweetness communicated from the fountain, that it is indeed pleasant: but it is the fountain I would abide in, there, is every thing to satisfy, but not to satiate."

How wisely the Lord orders all events to bring about his own purposes, and his people's good,

concurring circumstances will prove. At the time our dear friend refers to, in the above quoted letter, she was suffering from many quarters for conscience sake. She was under much dejection of spirit previously to her hearing Mr. Adams preach at the tabernacle, and it is more than probable she would not have thought of going thither, if the person at whose house she was on a visit, had not proposed her accompanying him to that place; which proposal he made merely to pass away time.

The tabernacle was full; she much wished for a seat, and perhaps imagined her genteel appearance would induce some person to offer her one; but, being unnoticed, the enemy of her peace availed himself of it, to inject the sorest suggestions into her mind. She thought the judgments of God had overtaken her in that strange place; that the people discovered her iniquities, and deemed her unworthy a seat among them.*

At last, overwhelmed with grief, she retreated to an obscure corner and wept immoderately; but, in the midst of her distress, the Lord gave her the hearing ear, and made the word a blessing to her soul. The description of her case was so justly given by the preacher, and the encouragement to persons in her situation so great, that she was convinced it was a doctrine suited to her, and observed it so consonant with the scriptures that she was satisfied it came from God.

She left the place, determined to attend the preach-

* This should be a caution to people in the house of God to make room for strangers.

ing of the word there, while she continued at Bristol. She noticed the publication for preaching from the pulpit, and that she might find the way to the tabernacle the next time by herself, she observed every thing that might serve as a way-mark in her return.

With a kind of impatience she waited for, and with pleasure she embraced the ensuing opportunity, when she heard the same minister preach on the Christian-armour, from Ephes. vi. 13—20. The Spirit of God then also witnessed with her spirit, that she was happily possessed of it.

Distress now gave way to holy joy, and a "Hope that maketh not ashamed," took place of slavish fear. The gloom that had so long depressed her spirits, dispersed, as the morning mists before the sun. Her prison doors were opened, her bands loosed; and her soul, once more, was delivered from the condemnation of the law, and the terrors of Hell.

She diligently attended all the means of grace, during the time of her residence in Bristol: and felt such love to, and union with, the ministers and people at the tabernacle, that it was with difficulty she parted with them, when she returned to Trowbridge.

She received another invitation to Bristol the following winter, which she gladly accepted. While on this visit, she was providentially introduced into the company of several respectable persons, belonging to Mr. Whitefield's and Mr. Wesley's societies.

In the interim between the two visits, she had written a religious letter, which was communicated to a friend in distress, with a view to her consolation. It passed through my hands, and among others, it was

read by Miss Eliz. J——n; who seeing it signed Joanna Cook, and recollecting that she had relations of that name at Trowbridge, desired Miss B——n to give her an opportunity of an interview with her when she came to Bristol again.

Miss Cook had also heard much of a cousin, Eliz. J——n at Bristol, who had been enabled, very singularly, to forego her worldly interest for the sake of a good conscience; and though her birth and connexions entitled her to a large fortune, was content with a family bible for her portion, when she offended her friends by becoming a despised Methodist. Our deceased friend was now therefore very desirous of seeing her cousin; for which purpose she attended an exercise of prayer among Mr. Wesley's people, expecting she should have an opportunity of an interview with her at the place where it was carried on.

The first person who engaged in prayer seemed to answer the description of her relative by the excellency of her gift; but it proved to be Miss B——n, to whose person, till now, she was a stranger. From this time, however, they knew each other intimately; and by this pattern of piety, and example of good works, she was introduced to her truly amiable and devout relation, with whom she lived in the most sacred friendship and strongest affection, to the day of her death.

By this first interview with Miss E. J——n, our new convert was amazingly disappointed. She had formed the idea of a tall, stately, reserved person, in a distinguished dress, taking the lead of a society

with a countenance that would excite religious distance and awe: whereas, contrary to this idea, Miss E. J——n appeared the most easy of access, the most humble in her mien, neat in her person, plain in her dress, and in all things an imitator of Him who was "meek and lowly in heart."

This convinced her that the Christian must be measured by the soul; that being, as Dr. Watts beautifully expresses it "the stature of the man." And herein she discovered those divine graces, which are infinitely superior to the embellishments she conceived to have been the exterior distinction.

If Miss E. J——n disappointed Miss Cook's expectation in one instance, she more than exceeded it in another. Her pious and scriptural conversation cannot well be conceived. Her prudence towards her newly converted relation, was equal to her kindness. She did not check the tide of holy joy that now flowed in our friend by entering into religious disputes, and setting up Mr. Wesley against Mr. Whitefield: nor did she give her books of controversy: but kindly put some of Mr. Whitefield's writings into her hands, in hopes, by their means, of establishing her in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

How worthy are such sacred friends of imitation! Each, discovering in the other the reality of divine grace; neither, presumed to forestall the Holy Spirit in his work; or to foster the false zeal and acrimonious spirit of a party in the stead of it: but mutually agreeing in christian experience, and living in the spirit of love, they followed after the things which

make for peace; and things whereby one may edify another.

In this they cordially agreed: to receive Christ as their wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption; and to strive together for the faith of the gospel. Were their example universally followed, the church of Christ would enjoy more peace, the gospel be subject to less reproach, and God would gain more glory. By the means of Miss E. J——n, and Miss B——n, Miss Cook had now free admittance into Mr. Wesley's and Mr. Whitefield's societies; and was enabled to speak boldly for the glory of God and concerning the work of grace, in private circles as circumstances rendered it necessary: and not only opened her mouth boldly to speak forth the praises of God, but she devoted herself in a great measure, to the service of his poor people. She employed herself, sometimes in providing garments for poor ministers, notwithstanding she thereby subjected herself to reflection: and was so ready to assist the poor, by every possible means, that she would even beg from door to door for them, in cases of emergency.

Hitherto she had supported a fashionable appearance, though not without many scruples of conscience; supposing, that by this only remaining instance of conformity to the world, she might soften the minds of her intimates, and the better prepossess them in favour of religion.* The light she obtained upon 1 John ii. 15, 16, convinced her, that, in this

* A false reason frequently given by dressy professors of the gospel.

instance of her conduct, she was doing evil that good might come: and a little incident fell out, which tended to confirm in her a resolution to alter the mode of her dress.

Going to dine with a newly-awakened clergyman at her cousin J——'s, with a design to talk over a little religious experience, and encourage him in the good ways of God; the wind blew off her head-dress, and so dishevelled her hair, that she was obliged to detain the table a considerable time while she adjusted it. Her friend replied to her apology with a gentle rebuke, adding, "This fashionable head will soon come down!" This remark was quickly verified: Miss Cook being now perfectly convinced, that such a dress was unbecoming a person who wished to be a follower of Christ, and an example of godliness to others.

Some time before this she had been disposed to part with many of her ornaments, by the influence that a sermon preached by Mr. Kingdon, a baptist minister of Frome, from Isaiah iii. 16, 26, had upon her. She felt the truth of his application so powerfully, that she stripped herself of her rings, and ear-rings, as she sat in the pew. The conviction of the sinfulness of outward adorning continuing to afflict; she under a more than ordinary impression, pulled off her ruffles as she passed the streets of Bristol, determining never to wear them again; which resolution she kept to the day of her death.

She used to say to her religious friends, who, in excuse for their dress, objected against the singularity of that she wore, that, believers in Jesus should be

as much ashamed of conformity to the world in their dress, as their amusements; and that, being called to fight against the world, the flesh, and the devil, there is an absurdity in fighting against them, "under their own colours!"

Her transition from a very gay to a very plain appearance, it may be supposed, occasioned some conversation and dispute; especially, as she was not backward to vindicate her plain appearance, when it met with objections, and to enforce the propriety of it upon her censurers. In consequence of this, she was led to write the following lines on the vanity of dress in the professors of religion:—

"Oh prince of pilgrims, hear a pilgrim's pray'r,
Whose only hope and trust is in thy care!
Obedient to thy call, my soul would run
On any errand, and no danger shun.
At thy command I trace the narrow way;
O lead me, Saviour, or I soon shall stray!
Grant wisdom, power, humility, and love,
All heavenly power thou givest from above!
Man is thy tool, thy instrument, thy clay;
O fashion, form, and make me still obey
Thy Spirit's teaching, and thy written word:
Touch, strengthen, help me, O my dearest Lord!
Thou know'st my heart, my inmost soul's desire,
Thou know'st my aim, thou didst the aim inspire
To follow thee—however scorn'd by men.
Judg'd, censur'd, mock'd, thought singular and vain.
Thine own dear people, who thy mind should have,
Shorn of thy strength by being worldly brave,
From touching, handling, now approve and like;
And hate the friend who at their follies strike.
They plead for Baal—"Religion's in the heart"
They cry; nor from their idols will they part,

"You're too severe, too strict; we see no harm;
"To be like others need not so alarm;
"I dress but little, others dress much more,
"There's such a one, out-does me I am sure!
"What you can see in me, I do not know,
"My things they must be made, they make them so.'
With aching heart I cry, "My sister hear,
What's written in the word; how read'st thou there?
Let Zion's daughters, Zion's King obey,
Their hearts be subject to his holy sway!
All scripture for instruction sure is given;
No needless word was ever sent from heaven!
Peter and Paul joint testimony give,
How women should behave, and dress and live.
After conversion, when to churches join'd,
How sweet, how lovely 'tis to join in mind!
Walk by one rule, follow one blessed guide;
Saints then with saints how sweet to be allied!
Such was the church in its primeval state,
But Oh, how fallen are we all of late!
Yet are those curs'd that shall diminish ought
Of sacred writ; plagues are pronounc'd their lot!
Come Holy Spirit, breathe on our dry bones;
Children to praise thee thou canst raise from stones!
Who's on the Lord's side? Who? come lend your hand,
Reform the church and save a sinking land!
Cry to your God, ye praying souls, still cry;
Beseech your brethren, every method try!
I catch the spirit, sympathize, and know
What 'tis to mourn and weep for Zion's woe!"

When our dear friend could not prevail on persons whom she laboured to convince of the sinfulness of outward adorning, by the softest persuasions, the most rational and scriptural arguments, and the most apt similies; she would sigh very deeply, and say, with a countenance expressive of the deepest con-

cern, "What can be done with these deluded people; whom no arguments can convince of the absurdity of conforming to the expensive and changeable fashions of the world, while they profess to be called out from among the world! How strange is it, that people so tenacious of the doctrines of the gospel, that they will scarcely allow salvation to those who have not the same doctrinal views with themselves, should nevertheless, be so erroneous in their practice; as if the word of God did not require a practical submission to its rules, as well as the assent of the judgment to its doctrines."

She so truly loved the people of God, and was so tenacious of the divine honour, that she could no more suffer sin upon her acquaintance to go unreproved, than she could see the symptoms of a mortification coming on their flesh, without reminding them of their danger, and recommending to them to call in proper help.

Since her decease a minister has remarked, that he was never in her company without being benefitted by it; either he was convicted of sin, or instructed in righteousness; encouraged in the path of duty, or comforted under affliction." She knew both how to wound and how to heal; but never slightly healed the wounds sin had made. She had a happy discernment, and seldom misapplied reproof or consolation; and several clergymen have made the same confession.

Full-fraught with the blessings of the gospel of peace, and richly fed in every christian society among whom the truth was preached, she finishes

her second visit at Bristol; and returns to Trowbridge, to tell her kindred and christian friends, how great things the Lord had done for her soul:—At her return she writes thus to Miss B——n:

"It was with great reluctance I left the ministers and people the time before; and so it was the last time I left Bristol: but the sweet promises with which I was dismissed, cheered and supported me. Mr. Whitefield's text, in the morning, was, 'I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter, that he may abide with you for ever.' Mr. Roquet, the same day, at Werburgh's church, preached from, 'I will not leave you comfortless, I will come to you.' The frame she possessed on her return may be conceived of by the same letter:

"My fellow-travellers, (said she,) alluding to the passengers in the stage-coach, were mighty chatty sort of people; but you cannot think how mute they were all struck on my talking of religion; except one gentleman, who had the courage to confess before half a dozen of us, that he read the Bible; that the blessed truths contained in it, he thought concerned every one; that all who had ears to hear were called upon; and that the christian, whatever the world said of him, he believed, was happy in every situation, in every circumstance.' This was music to my ears, and I expatiated, largely expatiated, as my little knowledge and weak abilities would admit.

"We know, my dear friend, who it is that makes the weak as David, and David as Goliah. It is our Heavenly Father, who by his grace thus strengthens

us poor, feeble, helpless worms! who overcomes the rebel's heart with love, and then it longs to be obedient to every command, to be in the constant discharge of every duty! O that I could love the dear Redeemer more, the purchaser of my every blessing!"

Thus filled with love under a sense of what the Saviour had done for her soul, she longed to be doing something for him in return; and dreaded, above all things, to disgrace his cause by idleness and lukewarmness; for thus she goes on in the same letter—

"Oh that I could do something for God! for his cause and interest in the world; for sinners, poor thoughtless sinners; for my dear relations; that they might taste, with us, that 'the Lord is gracious!' I long for company! join me, my dear Miss B——n, in praying that all our acquaintance, all we know, may know Christ Jesus, and him crucified, whom to know is life eternal; and that we may, myself in particular, never be left to ourselves; lest we become a stumbling-block to others, and cause an ill report to be brought on the good old way!"

As soon as she reached home she surprized every one with the warmth of her zeal and amazing courage, in recommending religion in all companies; venturing to write letters of reproof, even to religious and learned ministers, if she saw them go to any amusements unbecoming the sacred character; as the following letter testifies:—

"Dear Mr. ——,

"Can you bear with me, a poor, weak, mean creature as I am, unworthy to wash the feet of my

Lord's servants? but I must be faithful. Dear Sir, I am offended, and grieved, and mourn, whenever you are of the parties of pleasure amongst us. Have you so learned Christ? Is it bringing glory to God to be present at them? Unawakened, unenlightened souls see no harm in these things; they call them innocent useful recreations. Dear creatures, we must pray for them; nay, reprove and admonish as we have opportunity; though it is the Lord only can open the eyes of the blind. But the gospel-glass represents it to us in quite another light: St. Paul, in his epistles, gives it very different names. And the ministers of the Lord are to exhort young people to be sober-minded, and to flee youthful lusts!

"As I remember, we read of but one dancing assembly in the apostles' days; and that was so fatal to the church, it should deter the followers of Christ from encouraging them. Herod seemed to be under convictions before; but that joyous merry-meeting ended in a melancholy manner. And now, even in our days, if the servants of God are not doomed to an ignominious death by amusements, yet it brings spiritual deadness into our souls: and if we are, in any measure, made of one spirit with the Lord of heaven and earth, can we take pleasure in these things? We cannot 'run with them into the same excess of riot!' The love of Christ will constrain us to obedience!"

"A walking with God, and in the customs of this world, are inconsistent. We are called to 'separate and come out from amongst them,' not to hanker after 'the garlicks of Egypt,' not to 'linger in

Sodom!' The Lord hath manna to rain down on us: O that he would give us spiritual appetites for this angels' food! The world has no food to bestow upon us; they have not even temporal blessings to bestow! Our God is a God of providence as well as grace, can give, and doth give, even to the unworthiest of his creatures, the hundred-fold blessing in this life, as well as the precious promises of life everlasting! Happy, thrice-happy am I, to be reproached for Christ's sake; for singularity in his cause, for adhering to his commands!

"Dear Sir, write me a few lines; give me your opinion: Should believers in a crucified Saviour be frequenters, though it be only as spectators, of card-tables, balls, horse-races? &c. &c. Should christians meet and part, again and again, without mentioning the name of Christ? an important question.

"There may, I think, be the form of godliness without the power; but surely, where there is the power, it does not open a door for licentiousness. We cannot sin that grace may abound: we must be discharging every duty, though with much weakness and imperfection.

"It is the grief of my soul that I live no more to the glory of God! My dear friend, pray for me! Let me have the blessing of your example! O that I could love the Lord and serve him better! But the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth from all sin; being justified by faith, we have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ!' I hope and trust you will receive this in the spirit of love and meekness.

I would follow thee through good report and through evil report, I will pray that none of these things move me.

"Alas! how trifling are the affairs of this life! I would be solicitous, anxiously solicitous in the inquiry, whether Christ be mine; and for a happy assurance of it, by the blessed Spirit witnessing with my spirit, discovering to me scriptural marks and evidences, and constraining me to cry out 'My Lord, and my God.' I would be indifferent as to the way and method my heavenly Father shall take, to wean me from the world and prepare me for glory, I would leave it to him to lead me in the right way. When in affliction, O may I be made fruitful; and when surrounded with prosperity, may I be humbled, more weaned from earth, more raised to heaven.

"O my dear Miss B——n, how dangerous is this earthly state! My troubles, my crosses, my disappointments, are my choicest mercies, to be at the foot of the cross, at Jesus's feet to hear his loving lips pronounce these reviving words, 'Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and say all manner of evil against you, falsely, for my sake; rejoice, and be exceeding glad!' O my dear friend, our comfort is not in ourselves; it is not in this or the other situation, it is the presence of God that makes the christian happy! without it, he is all wants, all weakness; with it, he possesses all things, and is as a giant refreshed with wine!"

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"Dear Mr. ——,

"Can you bear with me, a poor, weak, mean creature as I am, unworthy to wash the feet of my

friend who lives in a pretty neat manner: it pleased God to open his heart to it, and he opened his house.

"Pray with me, my friend, that the Lord may reward and bless him with temporal and spiritual blessings; 'They shall prosper that love Jerusalem!' And is it not an instance of love in him to the dear Redeemer, to his cause and people, thus to open his house and his heart to them? O! let us bless God for this instance of love, courage, and holy zeal; and may many, very many, be quickened by it!

"It is surpassing wonder, my dear friend, the goodness of God; that there should not be the least difficulty, the least opposition or hinderance: it is the Lord's doing, it is marvellous in our eyes! And, could you think it, with shame I speak it, whilst we were singing of redeeming love, a base, unbelieving, cowardly thought arose in my mind, 'If a mob should gather round the door, should I not be ashamed of confessing the cross of Christ?' It distressed me that I should harbour such a thought, for a moment; for if the Lord be with me, methinks, there is nothing but what I could do or suffer for him, at his command! I went out boldly at their head, but there was nobody to see us. The great God, the searcher of hearts, knows the views of every individual! Lord, I would hope, that it is with a view to thy glory, the good of our souls, that we may grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ; and that brotherly love may continue!"

This society has continued, with enlargement, more than twenty years. For a considerable time

the deceased procured ministers from Bath and Bristol, who preached constantly once a fortnight, on the week days, but could not be spared from their own congregations on the Lord's-day; for which reason they walked miles to hear the gospel in the distant churches; until it pleased God to raise up a preacher among themselves; whose labours have been abundantly blessed and owned of him, to the conversion of many precious souls.

Soon after the meeting of this society, a gospel clergyman was providentally introduced into a parish contiguous to the town of Trowbridge; whose preaching our friend frequently attended, and by whom she was much strengthened. As she had much desired and prayed for the increase of the Redeemer's kingdom in her native place, she formed very pleasing hopes from this providence, nor were they vain: for immediately after, the gospel was preached in several of the adjacent churches with great success. What frame of mind she now possessed, we may see by perusing the substance of some letters written to Miss B——n.

"It is my comfort, my satisfaction," says she, "that I have surrendered myself up with my whole heart, as far as I know it, to be the Lord's, whose I am, who hath bought me with a price, and purchased me with his own blood!" In the same letter, she says, "Lord thou knowest all things, thou knowest I desire to be entirely thine, thy sealed fountain, thine inclosed garden! I would only live for God; I would only move for his praise; having put my hand to the spiritual plough, I would not look back!

I would follow thee through good report and through evil report, I will pray that none of these things move me.

"Alas! how trifling are the affairs of this life! I would be solicitous, anxiously solicitous in the inquiry, whether Christ be mine; and for a happy assurance of it, by the blessed Spirit witnessing with my spirit, discovering to me scriptural marks and evidences, and constraining me to cry out 'My Lord, and my God.' I would be indifferent as to the way and method my heavenly Father shall take, to wean me from the world and prepare me for glory, I would leave it to him to lead me in the right way. When in affliction, O may I be made fruitful; and when surrounded with prosperity, may I be humbled, more weaned from earth, more raised to heaven.

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The vivacity natural to her, vented itself in speaking forth the praises of the Lord, from day to day:

"O taste and see that the Lord is good?" was her language wherever she went.

"Sing on, my dear friends: said she, in another letter to the same correspondent, I will heartily join the chorus, in attributing glory to God on high, on earth peace, good will towards men. I want all, every creature I ever saw or heard of, to experience the pleasures of religion, the hidden life, the life of faith.

"Ye lovers, ye pursuers of pleasure, says she, here are rivers of pleasure promised in Christ! He is the only way to the Father. Ye ambitious, come; here are crowns of glory promised. Misers, exchange corruptible pleasures for the riches of grace! Young and old, rich and poor, high and low, come to the Lord Jesus Christ. He is an overflowing fountain, there is a fullness in him to supply all your wants. And my heart's desire and prayer for you, my dear, dear relations, is, that you may be saved."

The sense she had of her great unworthiness, and the Lord's free grace and mercy, she expresses thus to the same friend:—

"O my dear Miss B——n, never was a mortal so unworthy, so blessed as I! The Lord hath done great things; what more could have been done for me? I want time, I want language to express the greatness of my obligations: Having Jesus I possess all things, grace here, glory hereafter.

"That the Lord should prepare himself an habitation and dwell with man, amazing condescension. O may every buyer and seller be scourged out of

this heart of mine, that it may be a house of prayer, and not a den of thieves.

"My dearest friend, I can have no fellowship with the world; their manners, their foolish customs grieve me; I cannot conform to them: I would not affect singularity, but alas, without designing it, I am so.

"The Lord performeth all things for me, is my light, my life, my strength: I can do nothing but sin without his grace: Hitherto, praised be his name, he hath helped me, and hath promised 'never to leave nor forsake me;' it is on his strength alone I must rely: And he doth guide my feet, light my path, and is my sun and shield: I would live to the glory of God: the Lord, who knoweth all things, knoweth, if my heart do not deceive me. that this is my desire in whatsoever I do: But every work the Lord is pleased to employ me in, is so tinctured with sin, that it must be abominable in the sight of God; for in my own eyes it is worse than dross and dung.

"The Lord is pleased to employ me; I am his servant; and though his service is delightful liberty, perfect freedom, and however divinely assisted I am in duty, 'Tis pride, that cursed sin, spoils all that I perform.'"

Yet did she hunger and thirst for humility, continually, as is evident from the remainder of the same letter; "The longing desire of my soul, my poor weak breathings at the throne of grace, are, for humility: The gifts the Lord hath bestowed on me are small; and if it be his will they should be so, all is well: I would wish for that measure as shall be most for his

glory:" And the Lord gave her testimonies of his approving love for thus she goes on to observe:—

"He smiles upon my soul, dandles me on the lap of love; condescends for his name, for his Son's sake, to accept and answer my stammering requests, and my weak desires to lisp his praise: All my delight is with the saints, the excellent of the earth: The Lord carries me through good and evil report! He knows what is best for me: I am foolish and cannot choose for myself, but in every thing I would give thanks! It is the delight of my soul that God may be glorified, whatever becomes of me: I would not shrink from any service or sufferings he calls me to! But why do I mention services, or sufferings? Alas, poor nothing, nothing that I am" And this was the language of her renewed heart through life, and to her latest hour; notwithstanding she groaned, being burdened, with the remains of in-dwelling corruption, at times: which lessened gradually, day by day, as the grace of God prevailed in her heart: till grace reigned triumphantly over every enemy, and she could say, with Paul, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith," &c.

Notwithstanding Satan made a handle of her besetting sins, pride and vanity, to distress her soul, and rob her, for a time, of her peace and joy in the Lord; yet he could not move her feet from the firm rock Christ, the hope set before her in the gospel: neither cause her faith to fail; nor prevent the work of the Lord from prospering in her heart, or in her hands! The church to which she was a nursing mother, grew and multiplied, to the pulling down

the strong holds of Satan in many hearts, and setting up the Redeemer's kingdom in its room; as she thus testifies in another letter to Miss B——n, concerning the increase of the society.

"Rejoice with me, my dearly beloved friend: Our adorable Redeemer's kingdom is come into many hearts; and Satan's is tumbling down: We have sweet times of refreshing from the Lord, in general, at our meetings: but such precious manifestations of the love of God to particular souls, one and another, many, many of my dearest friends, that I cannot but rejoice at the glad tidings: Who is comforted and I rejoice not.

"O my friend: I want a place lower than the lowest earth to sink into, not from the presence of my God; it is my delight, my heaven upon earth, to enjoy that: but, proud haughty worm that I am, how do I long to be nothing, that my Saviour, my Redeemer, my incarnate God may be all in all.

"He has overcome me with his love, rebel, traitor that I am: O, may my right hand forget her cunning, rather than I forget where I was, how it was with me, when my Saviour, mighty to save, passed by and plucked me as a brand from the burning. O, grace, grace, rich, free, sovereign grace: Join me, ye daughters of Jerusalem. Why is the neglected harp hung upon the willows? Shall the daughters of Israel sing of slaughter? "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands;" and shall not we sing of salvation! proclaim the triumphs of our victorious king; in whose sight the greatest

monarchs of the earth are but as the dust of the balance?

"What is the might of creatures thus to be celebrating? And if we speak of beauty, he is fairer than the sons of men: None, no, not the saints, who are the excellent of the earth, are worthy to be compared: He is the chiefest among ten thousand: He hath ravished my heart with one of his eyes, and his love—

'Tis love divine, all loves excelling!'

O my friend: let the Michals, the barren professors, call our holy joy enthusiasm, delusion, or what they please; I will be yet more vile, and dance before the ark with all my might: Glory, increasing glory be to our all-glorious, triune God, and let all the people say Amen.

"Indeed, my dear, I am highly favoured; have much more to say, but have not time to write it now. Two or three mornings ago I was reflecting on my past uncommon cheerfulness, and, indeed, gayety in religion. I thought whether it were right, though, indeed, I cannot restrain it, and was beseeching the Lord not to suffer me to be under a delusion: whilst I was yet speaking, the promises of God were most sweetly applied to my heart. But I cannot repeat one thousandth part of the goodness of the Lord."

In another letter to the same person, dated March 7, 1763, she writes thus; "O my friend, if I had a thousand tongues, I could not express a thousandth part of God's goodness to me, worm as I am; mine eyes have seen the Lord; wherefore, I abhor myself as in dust and ashes! I would desire, in every thing

I say or do, to have a single eye to God's glory: it is meet, right, and my bounden duty so to do; but in every thing I offend, by exalting *self!* Surely, there is none in my heavenly Father's family like me: I cannot see one of such a proud, self-magnifying disposition as myself!

"The Lord is pleased to employ me: to give me inclination and ability, a wonderful share of health, strength of body and activeness of disposition. By nature, none more heavy, more indolent, than myself! But the Lord continually upholds me, or to what a dreadful distance should I continually backslide! He will not suffer me, for his Son's sake, for his glory's sake, for his promise sake, will not let me finally fall!

"Hitherto, he hath helped; hath promised never to leave nor forsake me. But, my dear, is it not strange that grace—the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not make me more humble? Sometimes I want to break my fetters, and to spring up into his presence and likeness; not to be freed from outward troubles and anxieties—I have none: the Lord bears me and all my burdens: the path of duty is made so plain and easy, it is delightful: but after I have done all, I see myself such an unprofitable servant! I am almost continually checked at my manner of performing any thing—it is dross, it is dung, justly might the Lord cast it into my face with a—"Who hath required this at thy hands?" But salvation is finished—Jesus suffered, bled and died! O, how am I indebted to rich, free, sovereign grace! My dear, praise for me: O, may the Lord give you to shout aloud for joy on my behalf!"

Speaking of the further increase of the society, she says, "The Lord is a wonder-working God. I am astonished—my speech fails me; nay, like the Queen of Sheba, my heart fainteth at the glorious appearance, for a far greater than Solomon is here. I am young—a novice, but the young men, the fathers in Christ, are amazed to see so many under convictions; so many waiting at the pool of Bethesda, and so many rejoicing in the Lord—built up, strengthened and established.

"A near and dear relation, a *lad of nineteen years of age, is inclined to join our society, without the least invitation from any of us. I cannot tell you how I am blest in this sweet relation. He is a wonder unto many; a scribe well instructed, so full of light, life and love. Like Mr. Hervey, he turns our tea-repast into an ordinance; talks with, and reads sermons to us; and afterwards sets us to singing psalms, and I hope to see greater things than these. His mother seems to be longing for the salvation of the Lord. How happy is she, to have a preacher raised up in her family; and a sweet one too. It is but for the Lord to speak, and great shall be the company of the preachers.

"A gentleman that you heard me speak of, and his family, seem greatly awakened; and many more. This has been a blessed winter; pray for us, that these impressions may not be like the morning cloud, and early dew, that passeth away; but that all may endure hardships, as good soldiers of Jesus Christ."

* Mr. John Clark, the present pastor over the people at the Tabernacle, in Trowbridge.

In this same correspondence we have a very agreeable anecdote; whereby we see how small the beginnings of the work of God sometimes are, and by how minute an incident great events may be brought about. In the continuation of an account of the progress the little society is making, for the prosperity of which she discovers an unabating concern; she mentions a young man, a shopman to a grocer, who bore all the marks of a sincere Christian. One evidence was his zeal to communicate to the family at large, what he himself partook of, that is to say, the grace of God; and those clear views of the method of salvation, by faith alone in Jesus Christ; which at best they had very confused ideas of.

To effect his endeavours he found it necessary to elude their prejudices: and that the author whom he put into their hands might be read without prejudice, he concealed the name in the title page. The author, who was Mr. Whitefield, obtained approbation; and the young man had permission to read to them in the same volume. One of the subjects was, the duty of *family prayer*, from Joshua xxiv. 15.—The conviction of the duty led to the practice of it: which was afterwards supported, for some time, either by the master of the family, or by the young man in his absence.

May we not here detect the evil of prejudice: and learn from hence, that if people would be guided by reason, instead of being misled by partiality; they would make many valuable discoveries, which, through prejudice, they are kept ignorant of?

In this correspondence, likewise, we follow this active handmaid of the Lord, through various laborious employments of visiting the sick, the poor, and the afflicted; and hear her breathing out her soul to God in prayer, that she might not be a cumberer of the ground, and a dead weight on the cause of God, or a clog to religion. She also expressed her dread of inactivity and self-indulgence; and of there being any thing in her conduct, that might damp the ardour and zeal of God's people. We find her condescending to do the meanest offices for her poor brethren and sisters, and see her sensibly affected with their joys and sorrows.

Her soul is suitably affected by the happy exit of a poor woman of the society, whose life and death redounded much to the credit of religion; nor less afflicted by the irregular conduct of a backslider, who was expelled from the little society; "Alas!" saith she, "my brother! I mourn, I pray for him; Lord Jesus, restore him, if it be thy blessed will."

In the fall of others, she discovers her obligations to God for his preserving and establishing grace, and makes this suitable reflection, "How wonderful is the arm of the Lord revealed, in upholding me, such a worm as I am: if left to myself, what shipwreck should I make of faith and a good conscience! But the Lord will not suffer it: He will 'keep me as the apple of his eye: He will never leave, never forsake me; none shall pluck me out of his hand.'"

In the same letter she gives her more enlarged views; saying, "I am strongly persuaded the Lord

will furnish me for every good word and deed, and enable me to perform every good work, he calls me to: I can now lie down in peace under his protection, and go forth in his strength all the day long. How wonderfully doth he condescend to me, the weakest of his family: He grants me my requests, fulfils my desires; encompasses me about with a wall of fire; bears all my burdens, my sins and my sorrows: I must rejoice in the Lord; yea, my soul shall make her boast in God.

"I am weary of this hard, cold, lifeless heart: I am not weary of the world with all its opposition: not weary of the service of God, in these courts below, though it is all imperfection: it is delightful to spend and be spent for God."

Her company now became a burthen to those who were strangers to her joy. Her conduct, in mixing so openly with the poor, and going with them to church and meeting so constantly, was considered in the most unfavourable light To prevent the continuance of this, she was put upon taking another journey to Bristol, in hopes she would remain there.

Two good effects followed from this scheme: that is, it proved an opportunity of remarkable usefulness, as will be taken notice of; and put her upon her own hands: whereby she was released from many inconveniencies peculiar to her then present connections. The circumstances referred to may be taken from a letter written on the occasion:—

"A few weeks ago, I was providentially led to visit a young lady in a consumption. My heart was filled with love, and my mouth with words of en-

couragement: I spoke comfortably to her from God's word: The Lord gave me favor in her sight, though a stranger. She desired me to see her often. After my second visit I was discouraged. I could not discern in her, what I thought, a proper distress for sin; therefore suspected the work was not begun. Her concern about little trifling things disgusted me; and concluding, that it was the Lord only that could work in her both to will and to do, was resolved to stay away: He was Alpha and Omega; had the keys of hell and death; 'openeth and no man can shut, and shutteth and no man can open:' However, with much weakness and little faith, I importuned the Lord to have mercy upon her: n the midst of my unwillingness, a friend told me Miss—— wanted to see me, from this time I was made willing, it was the day of the Lord's power:

"One evening, about a month ago, she told me she thought she should die: I asked her, whether she was willing to die? She said, 'O yes: if she was but prepared;' burst into tears, and affectionately clasped my hand: I spake to her, as the Lord enabled me, of Jesus the friend of sinners: of the efficacy of his blood to atone for, and of his righteousness to adorn the most guilty soul, all that will come, all that thirst. A violent fit of coughing came on, which much distressed me; supposing by too much conversation I had been the cause of it.

"From that time I had no doubt of her salvation: Soon after, I had a delightful opportunity with her: it was a morning to be remembered: She was thirsting for Jesus, and longed for an interest in him more

than for a thousand worlds; there was none in heaven she desired but him: She was looking for a sweet hymn of Mr. Cennick's suitable to her state; the title of it "*Thirsting for* Jesus." I found it out and read it. That night she had been greatly blessed in dreaming she was in heaven; and the nurse heard her sing, very sweetly, these verses of Mr. Whitefield's hymn for society:

"Who so much cause to sing,
Who so much cause to bless;
As we the children of a king,
As we who Christ possess!"

I could not but take account that she had been with Jesus: There was a sacred shine upon her countenance: 'While I was musing, the fire kindled' in my own soul, praise and glory be to our God, for ever and for ever. I think this was about a fortnight ago.

"Last Wednesday evening I found her dying. She said, she wanted me to come and stay with her; but was then going to sleep. The Rev. Mr. Thomas came in, and asked her several questions; which she answered distinctly and satisfactorily, though she seemed low. He prayed that she might be enabled to leave behind her a comfortable testimony of the hope that was in her. She had an exceedingly restless night; but after a sounder sleep in the morning, by which she was much refreshed, she looked upon me and two of her companions, with such a heavenly look and smile, as was astonishing. My dear, said I, you look very happy; is any particular promise

applied to your soul, or are all the promises yours? and I repeated several. "All are mine," said she. Then you have no doubts? said I. She replied "None at all now, though I have had sometimes." I said, then you think Christ is able to save you, he is God: "O yes," said the dear creature. And willing too, said I, for he died for sinners.—"Yes, yes, he is," she replied. He is the "chiefest among ten thousand," said I: "He is lovely," said she, "altogether lovely:" My dear, said I, you are going to be freed from prison, and to be admitted to the general assembly above: "I am," she replied; "and going to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob!" It doth not appear, said I, what we shall be, but we shall be like Jesus: "Oh," said she, "that long white robe that covers from head to foot, I long to have it on!" meaning a shroud which she dreamt was sent her in a band-box; folded up, and a paper on it, whereon was written, "peace be unto thee, thy sins are forgiven thee;" and it was that which set her soul at such a happy liberty. "I talk of dying:" said she, "but when shall I die? yet I would not be impatient:" Seeing her young friends weep, she said, "Do not grieve for me:" and, to one of them, she said; "If you were going with me, then you would be happy:" She looked round the room, and said, "I believe there are places prepared above for every one of us."

"Many, very many gracious words, dropped from her lips, which I pray God may be solemnly impressed on every heart that heard them: a more pleasant and smiling countenance, in death, I never

saw: nor any, in the most perfect health, more serene and calm: not a complaint or a groan was heard: sorrow and sighing was already done away by her dear Redeemer; who was wonderfully with her in the dark valley. The Lord was her light; she had no darkness. When they wiped the death-sweats from her face, she smiled, and said, "You cannot wipe these away."

"In the evening, when I called again, I know not how we were led to it, but the nurse and I spake on a trifling subject; which we thought would have diverted her. She looked graver than I ever saw her. I felt the reproof, and said, "My dear, I will talk to you of nothing but Jesus: of his dying love, of his rising power." She smiled and said, "No; nothing, nothing else." Miss B——n watched with her, and, in the night heard her say, "All glory, all praise, all worship and adoration:" as if she had begun the song of Moses and the Lamb.

"A very short time before she expired, the Rev. Mr. Thomas felt her pulse. She asked him, "How he found it?" He said, he believed she was drawing near her dissolution. She replied, "sir, I am glad of it." He prayed with her. She leaned forward in her chair to prevent coughing. Her mamma observed her lifting up her hands to heaven with great earnestness; and, in a few minutes after, she fell asleep in Jesus."

But while Miss Cook was thus profitably and delightfully employed, in visiting the sick, and in other offices of love, among her friends at Bristol, she received information that she must change the plan of

her life; and either relinquish the Methodists, or leave the advantage of boarding in her late comfortable manner, free of all expense. She did not hesitate a moment, which to choose; but determined to to be faithful to her holy calling, though she lived, in the meanest cottage, on bread and water. So far from giving up the people of God, she only waited for such an opening in providence, to look out for a cottage in order to be more at liberty to forward the cause she had espoused, by having a place of her own, where she could receive the people, and accommodate the ministers, who came from far. But she was at a loss where to find an empty cottage, or part of a house, at Trowbridge: and the following extract from her journal will best set forth her painful and pleasing feelings, on the occasion. She betook herself to prayer, as her only resource, in this time of distress and difficulty; for thus she expresses herself:—

"I importuned the God of the whole earth to provide me an habitation, food and raiment; and every convenience requisite for my poor body, as should be best for his glory! And I would adore him, with unceasing praises, that my soul is not destitute: that he himself is its habitation, whereunto I may always resort! its food likewise, for he said, 'take, eat, this is my body, broken for you!' and its raiment, the garment of salvation! and 'if a son ask bread, will he give him a stone; or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?' Glorify thyself, O thou God of love, in me, through me, by me.

"Thursday,—And is the most high God an habita-

tion for my soul; my rock, the house of my defence, and my strong tower? Has he hid me in that rock, and caused all his goodness to pass before me? Glory for ever to his name, he has! I am in Christ! grafted into him, dwell in him: and he will also provide for my earthly part: I shall want no manner of thing which is good: the earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof: I shall be led by a way I know not: He will smite rocks: I shall never be confounded, never be put to shame; Lord, increase my faith: I believe, help thou mine unbelief.

"O, what an ignorant, simple, foolish child am I: never were such broken petitions accepted before; such stammering requests granted; it is all for Christ's sake: I abhor my prayers; they are chatterings indeed; Jesus, my adorable Saviour, has purchased every blessing; and how little do I love him! My dear Lord assures me of his love: He is every thing I want: His cross and his presence, O how sweet: Lord, why this love to me? it overcomes me: What wilt thou have me to do? reveal thy dear will to me, and I will die for thee; submit my head to the block, my body to the flames: If thou art near; the most cruel death, even famine, would be sweet: There is no affliction that I dread but thy absence: O leave me not; I can do nothing without thee.

"Lord, why this out-pouring of thy precious love? Why these endearing names, so sweetly impressed on my mind, Thy father, thy husband, thy strength, the mighty God thy deliverer: Is there any trial coming upon me? My Saviour will be with me.

"Lord, thou lovest me with an unchangeable love;

therefore I am not consumed: How cold my heart; how lifeless my petitions; how little have I to say to thee, and yet am surrounded on every side with difficulties: I have been wandering among the creatures; and my proud heart has been puffed up with the applause of fellow-worms: O, when shall I be freed from this satanic disposition? Jesus, my God, my humble Saviour, take possession of my whole heart; reign in me without a rival; bring every thought into subjection to thy blessed self: I will not let thee go except thou bless me: I shall be miserable without thy blessing.

"Friday noon; surely, the Lord is doing great things for me by the death of a poor wretch: I believe, Lord, thou art providing me an house just in the situation, the very place, I want; and believe thou hast given me to desire it: If it be for thy glory put it into the heart of my brother to take it for me: all hearts are in thine hands: Bring it to pass; make it a blessing to me, and give me thy dear presence, or I should be miserable in it: Mine eyes are to thee, and to thee only: glorify thyself, do with me as thou seest good.

"Saturday; Lord, when shall I be unhinged from every thing here below, alike unmoved at smiles or slights from friends? When shall I have no passion, no desire, but that of love to my Redeemer? Lord, remember thy servant in all her troubles: Is it not for thy sake, for thy cause? Can they say any thing against me, save in the matter of my God? Display thine Almighty arm: provide me an habita-

tion, food and raiment, every thing necessary! Thou hast promised, and thou wilt perform.

"Monday; O my unbelieving heart: How can these things be, it cries: I get grovelling here below: The people reproach, taunt over me, say, 'Do you expect miracles?' Lord, remember David in all his troubles: Shall I not go up to thy work, up to fight thy battles? Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? speak, for thy servant would hear: guide me every movement, my every step, by the pillar of fire by night; and of the cloud by day: If I saw ways and means, every thing likely to succeed; it would not be walking by faith! I would not choose for myself: I see it right to live at Trowbridge, in order to encourage and strengthen the hands of the people of God there: and believe the Lord has called me to that work; though at present, there is no house found for me.

"For some years I have thought of living by myself, when it should not be convenient to live with my relations; which is now the case. If the Lord give me an house, it shall be devoted to him; for his ministers; his people: I will erect an altar there to his glory: Lord, open thou my lips, that my mouth may shew forth thy praise: I have found great sweetness and encouragement from the 54th of Isaiah, and I believe the Lord there promises that I shall never be put to shame: He will lead me by a way that I know not. Lord, increase my faith: keep me continually; suffer me never to be a reproach to thy people, to thy cause; guide me continually, that thy holy religion may not be blamed for my misconduct;

be with me through all the wilderness; bear me as thine Israel of old: There is no affliction like the hidings of thy countenance."

Thus distressed and perplexed in mind: sometimes relying on the promises of God, and at other times ready almost to give up her hope, because there was not yet an habitation to be found at Trowbridge; and having stayed a sufficient time with the friends she visited, she began to think she should be an outcast among men; and have, like her Saviour, no place wherein to lay her head. In this time of extremity, this great exigence, it appears, that her valuable cousins Johnson took her to live with them, till she could hear of a house at Trowbridge: for thus she goes on with her journal.

"Monday, July 30, 1764. College-green, Bristol; at Miss Johnson's: "O my God, thou hast brought me; it is a place of thine own providing, an habitation thou givest me; and thou dost bless me: All thy gifts, O my God, are without repentance: Here, I taste something of the joys of heaven, in sweetly contending with my dear Miss Johnson, who shall love our dear Immanuel most; though of different persuasions in some doctrinal points, and each zealous in our opinion, we have no other strife.

"But, alas, I feel very unworthy in her presence. She does adorn the doctrine of God her Saviour, in all things: O my leanness, my leanness: Lord, take me into closer communion with thy blessed self; I cannot bear this distance! O permit me, worm as I am, to walk, to talk with thee: My soul longeth, nay even fainteth for those blessed privileges: How is it

that every one of the family makes a greater proficiency; excels me, improves their talents better than I?

"Lord, make me a lively stone! Thou art my life; I cannot move without thee: Teach me how to pray; I am thy child; and shall not I call thee "*Abba*, Father?" permit me to plead with thee; fill my mouth with arguments: Lord, should I make a bad use of this gift, that thou withholdest it from me: glorify thyself; let me be any thing thou wouldst have me be: but oh! when I have an habitation, enable me, for thy names' sake, for thy glory's sake, to call upon thee! I cannot let thee go, unless thou bless me: Thou art my only friend; thou must supply my every want, and wilt thou not be sought unto for these things? Lord, open, thou my lips, that my mouth may shew forth thy praise.

"Tuesday, July 31, 1764. O what an ignorant wretch am I: How little do I know of Jesus, of his dying love, of his rising power: Lord Jesus, that which I know not, teach thou me: take me into closer union with thy adorable self; let me die to every thing besides: let me talk with thee, walk with thee, continually: O, be thou the only beloved of my soul; overcome me with thy love, with one look of thy thine eyes: Why should I be as a stranger to my beloved? Touch my heart, touch my lips with a live coal.

"O, what a poor weakling, what a babe do I continue; whilst others are flourishing in the courts of my God: O, what a lively devoted christian is my dear Miss J——n! Her life is a transcript of her dear

Redeemer's: there is nothing in her whole behaviour, in her whole conversation, that grieves, that distresses me! Her faith, her love, her zeal, her patience, all sweetly active and shining: We enjoy something of heaven, it is bethel: We differ in judgment; without contention, except who shall love most: We converse together of Jesus, pray and praise together! O, what a cumberer of the ground am I? I praise my God, who hath cast my lot here: it is a blessed place, an habitation of the Lord's providing: In my dear Miss J——n, I see, how true believers should live: Ebenezer—hitherto the Lord hath helped, hath carried me in his arms of love; heaped blessings upon me of the upper and the nether springs.

"Prayer-meetings exceedingly sweet: I am feasted as with marrow and fatness: A dear friend, Mrs. D——le, whom the Lord hath wonderfully set at liberty to praise him; to believe his promises, to trust his word, we spake together of his goodness to us in the land of the living, till we brake out aloud in hosannahs and hallelujahs.

"Sept. 5, 1764. I think I had a sweet promise, this morning, that I should never be forsaken: that I should always walk in the light of his countenance! I did not, before, doubt but the Lord would keep me to the end: but oh, if he would condescend always to smile, to be sensibly near my soul; to be my light, my life: O Lord, let it be unto thy servant, according to thy word, on which thou hast caused me to hope.

"Sept. 6th, 1764. Lost in wonder, love and praise, at the great things the Lord hath done for me

in a temporal way: surely, he hath restored goods, house, friends, &c. an hundred fold! What an habitation, what friends, have I! my cup runneth over; I am fed with the finest of the wheat; and if I had ten thousand lives, all should be devoted to him! I am ashamed of my poor returns of love: to me belong nothing but shame and confusion of face! My mouth is in the dust; but as long as I have any being I will sing praises unto my God."

September the twenty-seventh, of the same year, part of a house was found for her, in Trowbridge, just in the moment of extremity: for she had packed up the goods she mentions in the journal, that Miss J——n made her a present of, believing the Lord would provide an house. And according to her faith, so was it done unto her, as her journal concerning it testifies.

"September 27, 1764. 'Jehovah Jireh' the Lord hath wonderfully provided: Some time past, questioning whether the Lord would be with me; saying, how could these things be? Would he open the windows of heaven, then indeed it might be, the precious 54th of Isaiah occurred to my mind: which I believe was impressed by the Spirit of God, two or three days before I received a letter, giving me to understand, that it would not be agreeable for me to return to my former habitation: from which I concluded, the Lord directed me to keep house; that it was his will; and he would provide me with every necessary. Some few nights before, in a dream, I was greatly affected with that promise, "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee;

and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee." O what a promise-performing God is mine.

"Dear Miss Johnson's heart was inclined to promise me much furniture, (almost as much as I want) the day after I received a letter of dismission from my dear friend's house, at Trowbridge. If one spring is stopped, another is opened. 'All my springs are in him,' from whom all my consolations flow! 'My heart is fixed trusting in the Lord!' I have not been suffered to doubt but I shall have an habitation; and all things convenient, in the sight of all men; crying continually, without ceasing, to my heavenly Father, but in so broken a manner! abundantly meaner than the chatterings of a crane: He heard me, not for my prayers, but for my Redeemer's sake.

"My unenlightened friends said, there would not be a place for me at Trowbridge; that I should be disappointed; for so would they have it to be. But my desire was to go up to the Lord's work in that place, my native place: and he gave me almost continual encouragements and calls. The 7th of Deuteronomy was a seasonable reviving cordial, at this time of distress.

"At another time, when Miss J——n persuaded me not to send my goods till I was certain of a house, the first six verses of the twelfth of Ezekiel made me forward it: "Son of man, thou dwellest in the midst of a rebellious house, which have eyes to see and see not; they have ears to hear and hear not;

for they are a rebellious house. Therefore, thou son of man, prepare thee stuff for removing, and remove by day in their sight; and thou shalt remove from thy place to* another place in their sight: it may be they will consider, though they be a rebellious house. Then shalt thou bring forth thy stuff by day in their sight, as stuff for removing: and thou shalt go forth at even in their sight, as they that go forth into captivity. Dig thou through the wall in their sight, and carry it out thereby. In their sight shalt thou bear it upon thy shoulders, and carry it forth in the twilight: thou shalt cover thy face that thou see not the ground; for I have set thee for a sign unto the house of Israel." And before the goods were ready to go, a house was provided, and conveniencies, without my taking thought; for which I bless my heavenly Father, who so wonderfully provides for me! I am now furnished with almost every convenience: cheerfully purchase necessaries, but dread having a superfluous thing, I have no right to that: my God has not promised it me: I want it not, no, if it cost but one farthing.

"This morning the stuff is gone. I used my endeavours to have it loaden with care; and am satisfied that all my concerns are under the divine superintendence. It has been a blessed morning; surely, this has been a time to be remembered! My soul is

* It is remarkable, that Mrs. Turner, did remove this same furniture Miss J———n gave her; first, to Trowbridge, where she built a tabernacle for the Lord; and afterwards to Tisbury, near Hindon, in the county of Wilts, where she built another house for God.

watered as with the dews of heaven: I have sweet communion with my God! I have told him my whole heart; importuned for his presence; cast myself upon him, as having nothing else to trust to; begged he would glorify himself in me: let what would happen to me I cared not! But I was solicitous, very solicitous for the conversion of my dear relations said; I would leave them to his time if he would give me some token for good! Erskin's believer's jointure has been sweet to me! I opened on my knees the second chapter of Daniel: O, what faith was his! 'Then Daniel went in and told the king, if he would give him time, he would shew the interpretation.' The Lord is the same, yesterday, to-day, and for ever! O that he would give me faith like his servants of old.

"Opening a new bible, the leaf was folded down, which could not be in the binding, because the edge was gilt, at the 49th of Genesis, and the latter part of the 26th verse; 'The blessings of the utmost bounds of the everlasting hills, they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of him that was separated from his brethren.' O my God, my God, is not this thy word, thy promise, whereon thy servant may hope? Surely, it is a token for good; and my soul is refreshed as with new wine!"

She returned from Bristol with the blessing of the Lord upon her, as upon the patriarch of old, to whom the Lord said, "Return unto thy country, and to thy kindred, and I will deal well with thee."

She went out an outcast, as it were, from the face of her near and dear friends; and returned, laden

with the gifts and favours of her distant relations. Nay, she found the faces of those that were set against her, now turned towards her, as Esau's was to Jacob; for thus she writes to Miss E. J——n on the occasion:—

"'Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name, for his mercy endureth forever!' O, my dear friend, I cannot express the thousandth part of the goodness of the Lord; He hath blessed my going out and my coming in!

"After your dear sister left me, I was so wrapt up in sweet, silent meditation of the all-glorious, all-lovely, triune God; and in admiring the works of creation, the delightful weather, the pleasantness of the country, the sweet Sun of Righteousness shining upon my soul, that I could not attend to my company. Their voices seemed harsh and disagreeable, till I considered, now was the time to live *for* God; to live *with* Him an eternity is provided; I therefore endeavoured to speak a word for Him: the conversation was blessed to my own soul at least. He gave me courage in the day of battle, and enabled me to reprove a very old swearer for taking his sacred name in vain.

"The Lord was with me of a truth in my journey, and I arrived safe at my sister's, in the evening, and was received kindly. All my care and anxiety, I see is needless. My brethren in the Lord received me with a loving simplicity, glorifying God on my behalf. There were no raptures nor transports of admiration, but all their behaviour was delightfully sweet and calm! Jesus was exalted and adored! I

gave them an invitation to meet at my house Lord's-day mornings. All my relations acknowledge how well I look: and express such a surprise as shews they expected to have seen me a very different creature.

"After breakfast I went to my house; and surely my heart did glow with something like gratitude; Lord, increase the little spark into a mighty flame. I had my bedstead soon put up. Sister Cole sent me a new bed and quilt, and indeed they look very neat; but I must not admire the creature:—

"This foolish heart would leave its God,
"And *shadows* tempt her thoughts abroad."

"If I should accept of all the invitations given me from friends and relatives, I should eat and drink almost continually. I have hitherto constantly dined out, and am yet, for several days, engaged to dine abroad; so that it will be some time before I have finished my round. Thus I fare sumptuously every day; but I rise from table as soon as it is discharged, and return home to my own beloved chamber, where I have had a constant fire.

"Miss Jennings is extremely ill. Miss Allen and she are both exceedingly obliging and kind to me, but they do not own and honour my Saviour, therefore, I am afraid they do not know him. I told them they had taken a Methodist into their house, and I was determined, through Christ strengthening me, to be more and more so, and when they were weary of me, they must put me away. I told them of our society's coming to my parlour Sunday mornings, and invited them to partake of the gospel-feast,

as in my Father's house there is bread enough and to spare. These dear creatures said nothing to the contrary, but there has been a mighty bustle since; My poor cousin J—— C—— was like to have a fatal blow from a friend for meeting with us, but the Lord preserved him, and has blessed him with much of his presence ever since. Last night the storm fell upon me; my aunt came to persuade me against it: said it would be hurtful to Miss Jenning's and Miss Allen's trade; but before she went away 'Saul was also among the prophets!' nay, the tables were so turned, that I insisted upon it, she should meet with us; I invited her in my Lord's name, and would admit of no excuse but her inability to rise so early, because she is unwieldly and weak; but she promised to come evenings, if we ever should meet. My dearest cousin rejoiced with me; she went away so melted into love to Christ, so broken in heart. O, what shall we render unto the Lord!

"Very soon after, Miss Allen and Miss Jenkins told me their fears of losing their business, by having a methodist meeting in their house; but I told them it was the only way to prosper, 'to seek blessings of the Lord.' We had a great deal of conversation upon it, but I insisted on it that I would erect an altar for the Lord in my habitation, and that I should be continually having friends to 'pray down blessings upon them!' I pleaded my right to do as I pleased, and admit whom I pleased into my apartment, but told them I would stay no longer in their house than they pleased. I was sure the Lord would provide me another place, I would not even insist on the quarter's warning.

"After putting up my broken petitions to the Lord that he would strengthen me—unto me belong nothing but shame and confusion of face,—I was enabled, the first night, to beseech them that we might pray together before we went to rest, as the Lord had threatened to pour out curses 'on the families that call not upon Him.'"

"O how good, how gracious, how condescending is my heavenly Father! How does he cheer the heart of his poor, destitute, helpless ones! He will 'never leave me nor forsake me!' I am not 'afraid of evil tidings; my heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord,' I am just come from a friend who sent to acquaint me, that the landlord of the house, who is a clergyman, will forbid my meetings, but that will make them the more abundant: my God commands, and in his strength, I must obey."

In another letter she says, "praise the Lord with me; praise him for me! It is all I wish, want, or desire! O for an eternity to praise my redeeming God for what he has delivered me from! He hath clad me with the robe of salvation, and the garment of praise! He bears me continually; keeps me as the apple of his eye; gives me strength according to my day; magnifies his strength in my weakness; and thoroughly furnishes me for every good word and work! I would proclaim his goodness upon the house-top: I would give thanks in the great congregation."

It is with pleasure she observes the blessing of God upon her endeavours, to prevail upon the two young ladies, Miss Jennings and Miss Allen; part of

whose house she occupied, to attend the means of grace. She says, " My dear *Miss Jennings and Miss Allen seem now longing for nothing but Jesus, they love to have me with them. Instead of refusing, they now beseech me to meet in their room to pray with them. With their little faith it was a bold thing in them to take me in! The Lord would have it so, and I believe they will be blessed! Miss Allen is a most amiable girl; twenty years of age. I love her as my own soul; and she asks my advice in every thing. If she leave business and this town she will be amongst gay people; and she trembles at the thought. She tells me, she ' will abide where I abide; my God shall be her God, and my people her people!' I can do nothing for her; but my God can do every thing! My habitation is now become pleasant indeed: surely none had ever a more delightful one: It is a Bethel! †Hetty Coles has written complaining of my silence; and at her mamma's desire I have answered it."

She remarks that many under distress came to her for instruction and advice, " I direct them all," says she, " to Jesus, bid them tell him all their troubles, and pour out their hearts before him! I tell them, ' his blood cleanseth from all sin; he receives all who come to him; that he is a God at hand, and not

* These two happy converts of the deceased went out of the world trusting in Jesus; and have been enjoying the blessedness of true believers, in glory, some years.

† An amiable niece of the deceased, to whom her correspondence and conversation was greatly blessed, and who likewise went to glory before her.

afar off;' that I can do nothing for them; that vain is the help of man."

What most of all afforded her pleasure, was the advancement she perceived Mr. Clark was making in the same divine life. She says, "some of my sweetest moments are with my dear cousin Clark. The Lord is with us; and we are happy together. I am more and more of opinion that he will be called out to preach: the scriptures are opened unto him in so wonderful a manner, and he is so simple-hearted! He knows nothing of the names and sects among us. I have asked him, 'if his heart did not burn to preach Christ?' He confessed it did; and he was only waiting to know the Lord's will! I asked him, if he should choose the church of England, or to go forth into the highways and hedges?' He said, 'which ever the Lord should see fit for him; or to be a dissenting minister, if it were most for the glory of God.' The riches and honors of this world are nothing to him! Till last night I was fearful he did heap up treasures upon earth; because he is so reserved, and never lets one know that he gives any thing away: but he was obliged to confess his poverty to me, not having enough to pay for the 'Lives of the martyrs,' which he has ordered for us; for we have all these things in common. The family thinks he has saved a great deal of money; his father having taken him into partnership.

"Please to let Mr. Evans see this letter, and beg him to come over and see us. I have lent Miss Jennings my chamber, but no matter, we can accommodate him with a bed rather than he shall go home after preaching late.

"How shall I express my gratitude to my dear cousin Mary when I look round about me and see my new furniture; and consider how handsome, yet how free of expense to me? My heart glows with gratitude to the author of my bounties; and fervent petitions that showers of blessings, spiritual and temporal, may be poured down on the dear instrument of helping me to these good things!"

And now we see this honored handmaid of the Lord an housekeeper, with the small income of the interest of five hundred pounds: and the Lord gave her faith to believe, that, with this small pittance, and the money she could earn by plain-work, she should be able to support herself, do something for the church of God; and once a week, at least, assist a poor sister with a dinner.

She begins by inviting her gay friends to her house-warming; boldly telling them they must expect spiritual fare with their temporal; as may be gathered from the following letter:—

"My dear friend,

"I have invited all my friends and relations to my house-warming; and they are all exceedingly diverted at the thought! I have given them a bill-of-fare, which they want to alter to something more agreeable to their own taste. They will not come if my poor friends are with me; it will look so much like a methodist-meeting! But when Mr. Evans, or a preacher from Bath calls upon me, then I will give them an invitation. This to me appears most prudent, and the Lord's time is best.

"You must think I am a wonder unto many.

Some mock and deride, and call me pharisee; and bid me read the fifth of Matthew; and tell me, 'I do it all to be seen of men.' Sunday morning I was at church. The preacher attacked us from the pulpit, and accused us with 'stunning them with the name of Jesus,' that name which is above every name! But the more they bid me hold my peace, the more exceedingly will I cry out!"

As the blacksmith's house was now too small for the congregation, which increased greatly; our friend began to look out for another, that might serve both for her dwelling, and for the assembling of the people for religious worship. And a friend offering her a piece of garden-ground to build on, if she would find money, she hesitated not to sink into the principal of her little fortune, in order to erect a building commodious for the service of the sanctuary. Meanwhile she meets with a cottage that would serve both purposes, till the building should be finished; and quits Miss Jennings' apartment for it: as may be seen by the following letter to her beloved relative Miss E. J——n.

"O my dear cousin, where shall I begin the never ending praises of my God! He doth so bless me, so provide for the unworthiest, the most helpless of his creatures! I am a worm, but God is love; and nothing but love! Glory be to his name, the gospel standard is lifted up in my house: The Captain of our Salvation is strong: He receives the out-casts; 'all that are discontented, all that are in debt and have nothing to pay; all that are distressed, all that will come:' 1 Sam. xxii. 2.

" The Lord hath wrought wonders for us, smitten rocks: I have an habitation of his providing, my father's gift, a good one, a bethel: A little mean cottage many would think it: but it is a glorious place! Jesus fills the house with his presence: It is in the middle of the town: a good situation; a fresh neighbourhood: none dare molest us; all at peace, all obliging: give but four guineas a year; and have a room at the top, an upper chamber, a church, that will hold above an hundred people: a fire-place and all convenient; and I have furnished it with long benches: we have had blessed meetings in it! The floor and stair-case are much worn and shattered: but he that holdeth up the heavens and the earth can preserve us: To him I would look, and not to mouldering decaying tabernacle.

" I was directed to this house in a remarkable manner: knew not where to go, till a few days before the quarter was up; nor indeed, till then, did I see myself called to act: I thought of this place; and immediately, sent a friend whom I teach to read while eating my breakfast, to know if it were inhabited. He brought me word, " only by burlers* in the garret, and the owner would not let it.' I waited upon the gentleman, as soon as breakfast was finished, and came home so struck at the goodness of my God! A fine polite gentleman, but so civil to me! He told me I should have it, and he would endeavour to put his work out, while I was in the house; for I told him, I believed it would not be long ere I could

* Women employed in the cloathing manufactory.

suit myself in a still more agreeable place! I begged him not to put himself to any expense, I would take it as it was. But, indeed, he has, unknown to me, put himself to more expense than I shall pay him rent for. It joins to his dwelling house: I told him, I should be a noisy neighbour; and all about the meetings; and invited him, his family, &c. &c.

"I have been at no expense. I find where it is not given it is not required. When, my dear cousin, will you and your dear sister, come and visit my little, sweet, delightful cottage? I have all things to enjoy! No garden, and therefore not the expense of one; can view my neighbour's when I please: have no estate, no field; but from a little window can see delightful fields and meadows that my heavenly Father has given to others for their portion; and I will adore him because he has given himself to me for my portion, 'my beloved is mine, and I am his:' can say no more; have a house full of friends from Bradford come to keep holiday, all young, and I trust, saying 'We would see Jesus!' Jesus be with you continually: is the prayer of

'Your unworthy friend,

'J. Cook.'

As our friend could get no preaching in her own house on Lord's days, she was not ashamed to take a bit of bread in her pocket, and walk, with her poor neighbours, from village to village, to hear the gospel in the establishment: and between the services of the church, sit down on a bank by the side of a brook, in the road; drinking of the purling stream,

and eating their bread with joy and singleness of heart, praising the Lord.

Thus conscientious and faithful in small things, as well as great, our dear friend walked continually in the presence of God, as did Abraham; or like Moses, who "refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season: esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he had respect unto the recompence of reward." The dear deceased had also respect unto the recompence of reward which none but God can give; for it is only by 'acknowledging him in all our ways,' that we can expect, 'he will direct our paths.' And, in time, she experienced the fulfilment of the promise, 'Whoso honoreth me, I will honor:' For the church of God, abundantly prospered in the upper-chamber she had dedicated to public worship: so that she was soon obliged to quit her little cottage as a dwelling house, being obliged to prop the beams of the upper floor; they proving too weak for the weight of the people who usually assembled.

The inconvenience attending this increasing congregation, was the occasion of her removal once more to Miss J——n's at Bristol. During her residence with that valuable relation, she accomplished the design, she had previously formed, of building a house with a room for the more convenient accommodation of the increasing number of people who heard the word gladly: to effect which she sank near sixty pounds of her small fortune.

This work of faith and labour of love did not go unrewarded. For soon after she began to build, the Lord put it into the heart of Mr. Turner to make her proposals of marriage; which she took one year to consider of, and know the will of God concerning it.

And here it may be no unprofitable digression, to give the pious reader a specimen of the Lord's teachings, and her faithfulness to what she thought the will of God concerning this marriage, from a journal found among her papers.

"Sunday night. This evening, I was exceedingly struck with T. T——'s proposals of marriage. For a considerable time I have thought I should be permitted to live single. My Maker is my husband; but may his will be done! Found great liberty and freedom to speak to him about spiritual things. The Lord is wonderfully with him: I do not know a more amiable christian! I see I have nothing to do, but to wait upon my condescending heavenly Father, to reveal his will to me: For I have none of my own! He hath made me willing to submit to him, in the day of his power.

"Monday evening. This has been a blessed day, had much communion with God: He will be with me and bless me; but I know not in what way! The important affair, is much on my mind; but it does not distress or disturb my peace; for I find a sweet looking unto Jesus for all. Last night, at our parting, how earnestly did my dear friend pray unto the Lord, that we might be entirely devoted to him; be lively in his service, yea be a living sacrifice.

"The chief argument he used to me, was, he saw

it his duty to be settled in life, that he might promote the glory of God, by espousing his cause to his utmost ability. That deadness among my married friends, does not discourage me. If the Lord call me to this way of life, he will bless it; and I may keep up the same meetings, and be more useful; as I shall have more talents committed to my charge. Friends, will be alarmed: but will it not be for the glory of God, for me to be, as it were, an example to Christians, to choose a child of God, an heir of glory, though he has but little of this world's goods? If it be my heavenly Father's choice, it will be better for me than a more exalted station: His will be done! I shall partake of the gospel feast still, never, never shall be cast off! The Lord will, I am assured, in his own time, which is the best, the right time, speak, and his servant shall hear, will with a still small voice say 'This is the way, walk in it.'

"I never was calmer, easier, or happier! The Lord is with me of a truth: We had a sweet meeting for singing: the Lord was present. O, how doth he condescend to bless his worthless creature! He gave me remarkable courage in reproving a dear friend, for speaking against religious zeal and frequent meetings: and afterwards I was tempted, as usual, to think I had done wrong: but those words came exceedingly sweet to me, 'Is any merry' among you, 'let him sing Psalms;' and again, 'You shall reprove even kings for my sake.'

"April the seventeenth, 1765. O, what things, what wonderful things, have I heard and seen to day! Blessed Spirit, help me to relate: Surely, the Lord

hath appeared to a poor worm: This morning I fell on my face before the Lord, desiring clearer views of Christ, who he was, and what he had done, breathed out my soul to him, and, surely, it was from the abundant manifestations of his love thereto! It came upon my mind, 'the Lord's communing with Abraham.' I begged, if it were his blessed will, he would permit his vile dust and ashes, to ask concerning the change of her condition. A child asks the consent of her father; and I ask, rejoicing that my heavenly Father knoweth all things. I begged that he would, in his own good time, reveal his will concerning it, if it were for his glory: but if not, and that my face must be covered, I besought that I might not be permitted to take a wrong step: I desired to choose nothing for myself."

As soon as her house was finished, she returned; and resumed her kind offices to the poor, the sick, the afflicted, and the church of God, at Trowbridge: to whom she was a spiritual nursing-mother, in providing ministers to break the bread of life to their souls. And after she had possessed her new habitation near a year; in which time she had duly considered Mr. Turner's proposals, and thought them to be from the Lord; and meeting likewise with the general approbation of her friends and relations, she accepted him: and the marriage was solemnized, on the ninth of Feb. 1766, with a mutual affection, that death itself could not dissolve.

I can now no longer describe Miss Cook, and it may be thought by some, to be a difficult task, to represent Mrs. Turner, as the chief subject of the se-

151200

quel of these memoirs, without detracting from Mr. Turner's worth: but it must be observed, that her pious zeal was no small excellence in Mr. Turner's eyes: and that, in the union he formed with her, he had not the least desire to quench it; but rather was concerned to cherish and promote it.

There was a reverse in the complexion of the happy pair, whereby they were mutually useful to each other: and mutually, according to their respective abilities, laid themselves out for the glory of God and the good of his church. And so strong are the affections of the mournful survivor to the memory of his deceased consort, that I am persuaded, though perhaps he may be somewhat displeased by an apology on the present occasion, he can never see these memoirs in a light too strong, or too expressive of the worth and excellency of her whom his soul loved.

I therefore proceed to observe, that as soon after the solemnization of their marriage as was convenient, she quitted her own habitation, appropriating it solely to the worship of God, where, after the agreeable revolution on her part, she had the additional pleasure, of seeing a continued succession of precious souls, brought to a saving acquaintance with the Lord Jesus Christ.

The new relation required attention to the duties peculiar to it: which she entered upon and filled up with the greatest ease and affability; supporting a vein of spirituality as strong as ever. Mr. Turner having just now opened a large shop, she perceived it was her duty to add to her small fortune, by taking such a part in his business as she was capable of:

And a little practice, with her abilities, soon made her service very considerable. For ten years, she was a laborious shop-woman, besides keeping the books, and attending to the business of the counting-house; which she did, with a punctuality and exactness as well as dispatch, that would do honor to any clerk in the kingdom.

How contrary, in this part of her character, doth she appear, to many of our sex, who, with a small fortune bring to their husbands a great burthen; and by their idle visits, received and paid, waste that time, which God and their families have a just claim to! But Mrs. Turner gave up only her hands to the world: Her heart, was still as devoted to God and his service as ever. And even her new connexion and employment of life was improved to the glory of God, and the good of her soul, and the soul of him to whom she was now united in double ties: as may be seen by her letters, and especially by the following extract from a journal, written six months after her marriage.

"August the twelfth, 1766. According to custom, in my husband's absence, looking over his books and papers, I find the order, the regularity and method he makes use of, a great blessing to my soul. Who am I, to be so highly favoured, to be united, to be made one with so dear a child of God! The gift leads me to the giver: O my God, how great thy goodness to me: Thou hast opened my blind eyes, thou hast convinced me of sin, and of a Saviour's righteousness! Lord, they are great things thou hast done for me: ten thousand thanks be to thee, thou

adorable God! What could move thee to it? Methinks, I am lost in wonder, love, and praise! I can say, Lord, thou knowest all things, thou knowest I would love thee! My soul, at seasons, longs after this more than the panting hart for the water-brooks! O that I knew more of thee; that thou wouldst manifest thyself to me more than ever! I want to know nothing but Jesus Christ, and him crucified, the chiefest among ten thousand.

"A glimpse of my dear Lord; of his amazing love, his wonderful condescension, long-suffering and forbearance; makes me worship, wonder and adore! But still, I sin against him, am ungrateful and unkind! Forbid it, dearest Lord, thou only canst forbid it to purpose, that ever I should so offend again! O that, from this day, I might be entirely devoted to thee: my heart more warmed with thy love, more lively in thy service and worship, thy cause, thy people, thy interest, nearer to me, more dear, than ever.

"Lord, I cannot live unless thou permittest me to love thee: take away this coldness, this unfeelingness, and give me a heart glowing with love: remove prejudice against any of thy dear people, of any denomination; and may I love them because they are thy people; and not because they are amiable, lovely, or adorned with gifts! Lord, I am a witness thou receivest the vilest, the most unlovely, for I obtained mercy! Every thing reminds me of the amazing goodness of my God, and of my own ingratitude and unkindness! Lord, how canst thou put up with such behaviour from me; and bless me still in such a man-

ner, in my goings out and comings in, in my rising up and lying down.

"Lord, thou hast withheld no good thing! Since the day, the happy day thou didst call me to come up to thy work, to the repairing of thy house; how hast thou multiplied and increased my goods! Before that time, it was all vanity, all vexation, all disappointment, nothing answered my expectation, 'death was in the pot,' All was embittered! I wanted to enjoy earthly things; but they were airy phantoms; shadows I could never grasp! It is wonderful that ever the Lord should look upon such a wretch, in such a wretched state, and bless her, and give her the desire of her heart, and make her the happiest of mortals, all this, and heaven too.

"Sing, my dear husband, my pleasant companion, my partner for life, sing praises to the Lord! Who so favoured, who so blessed, so indulged, so dandled on the knee of our heavenly Father, as we! I have but this one thing to desire of the Lord, that I may see him all the days of my life, and dwell with him for ever! And you, my dear companion, are included in every wish of my heart: Whatever I want for myself, I beg the same for thee: Our gracious God, hath united us in and for himself, and none, men nor Devils can put us asunder, for ever, and for ever.

"'The Lord Jehovah reigneth God over all, blessed for evermore:' O let our right hands forget their cunning, our tongue cleave to the roof of our mouth, if we ever forget to speak of the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living: O my God, what

great things hast thou done for me, in temporals, this last year: and dost, adored be thy goodness, add thy blessing to our increase, make all blessings to our souls: Thou hast taught me both how to be abased, and how to abound; and in every state, therewith to be content.

"Praised be the Lord, he spreads our table in the sight of our enemies! Blessed be his name, who hath separated and made us come out from among them: and is become our Father, and made us his son, and his daughter! But, if he be our Father, (and indeed, he is,) then, where is our obedience? O my leanness, my leanness! methinks, I long to obey and love as angels do above: and yet come so dreadfully short, that in every thing I sin: O that I hated sin! O that I loved holiness more; were more like my dear incarnate God, more transformed into his likeness, had his image more plainly stamped upon my soul! 'Lord, thou canst work, and none shall let, let it be unto thy servant, according to thy word, on which thou hast caused me to hope.'

"O the numberless mercies of this last year: pardon, my dearest Lord, pardon my numerous sins: wash me in thy blood, clothe me with thy righteousness, and sanctify me with thy Spirit: Bind me to the horns of the altar, to Jesus: may my ears, both ears, be bored to his delightful service: And do thou make me a faithful, kind, and affectionate wife, to the best of husbands: when he rejoices may I rejoice with him, and increase his joy in the Lord; and when he mourns, mourns for his sins, for the withdrawing of his God; we will lie at the feet of Jesus

together, and not let him go until he bless us! Amen."

Mrs. Turner took care, likewise, that her new duties and occupations in life should not render her less useful in the cause of God, or less devoted to the service of precious souls; by having this maxim of the wise man, at all times, for her rule, 'Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might.' She let no moment or opportunity slip, that might be employed for the glory of God, or the good of her neighbour: and so, by using every moment to the best purposes, she found time for the discharge of every duty, the Lord in his providence called her to. And it can scarcely be conceived, by persons unacquainted with this highly favoured handmaid of the Lord, how exemplarily she filled up her public station: how suited in her address, to persons of every class in life; and how careful she was to watch for the season in which the word might be fitly spoken that respected eternal things: in which she knew every soul was deeply interested, though few had love enough for their own souls to be careful about them.

Few came to her shop without having a word of advice, comfort, or encouragement in the way of peace: and if they would not take her advice, or treated her with contempt, she would bear patiently with their ill treatment; like her divine exemplar, saying, 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do:' And she did not shew her love to poor sinners in word only, but in deed also. For great acts of kindness, with much temporal loss to herself, has she voluntarily offered her enemies, per-

secutors and slanderers; and has often taken long and tiresome walks, and expensive journeys, for the good of individuals: as well as the great expense of money, pain and trouble, she and her valuable pious partner have been at, for the prosperity of different churches; and for the propagating the gospel in the various places about the country: where there was scarcely the least appearance of spiritual religion to be found.

It is said, 'the integrity of the upright shall guide them:' and Mrs. Turner's integrity to God in not spending precious time unprofitably; and faithfulness to her fellow creatures, in taking every opportunity to counsel them for their good, guided her into the most easy and expeditious methods of trade imaginable. For those who liked her religious conversation, gave her the worth of her goods without using unnecessary words; and those that did not relish spiritual things, but liked her temporals, took the goods off her hands as soon as possible, in order to be out of the hearing of her good advice. And when tradesmen came to shew their patterns of printed linens, &c. in order to save precious time, and be free of the sin of using idle or unnecessary words, she chose the first pattern that struck her eye; if the cloth, &c. were good and proper: and generally found those linens were most pleasing to her customers; the Lord not permitting her pure motives to be attended with loss. And many have dealt at her shop on account of the privilege of spiritual conversation, who will have reason to praise the Lord, through the endless ages of eternity, that he inclined

their hearts to go thither. If a stranger sent to her shop, she would generally send a letter with her bill of parcels, relating to the best things; a specimen of which I have before me, sent to a lady of my acquaintance, bearing date, June 24, 1768.

"We are extremely obliged to you, dear Mrs. G——n, for your kind favour: In return, what shall we, what can we wish you, but 'spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus?' May your soul be quickened and made alive to God; and may the life you now live, be by the faith of the Son of God! Time, with all its trifling concerns, is passing away quicker than we can express it. The body, we shall soon drop in the grave; the soul, will exist for ever, in happiness inexpressible, inconceivable: or unutterable misery, without remedy, without hope, without end.

"All must appear before the judgment seat of Christ: and how guilty, how condemned, how must every mouth be stopped, when we consider the strictness, the spirituality of the law, the omniscience of the Judge, and the faithfulness of the witness! Conscience will then say guilty, verily guilty! The law requires truth in the inward parts; and our hearts are deceitful above all things: The law requires us to love God with all our hearts, and soul, and strength: A curse is pronounced upon those, 'who continue not in all things written in the book of the law to do them!'

"What shall we then do? Whither shall we go for help but to Jesus Christ? who came 'to seek and to save them that are lost.' He saves to the

uttermost all who see their want, and desire help and healing from Him. If you are wretched and miserable, and find all the pleasures and gaieties that can be invented cannot relieve you, you experience, what I have experienced before you. Disappointment from the creatures, and distress in looking to them, drove me to my God. Adored be his goodness, He has graciously relieved, blessed, and made me happy in himself as the only good. My dear madam, he has more than one blessing to bestow. Venture upon him just as you are, guilty and weak: He will do every thing for you.

"Happy shall I be to see you at Trowbridge, and describe this lovely Saviour to you. I have written these lines in haste, it being market day, and I am busy in my shop. Pardon the freedom of a poor stranger, who by the grace of God is made a lover of souls, and desires to approve herself their faithful servant in Jesus, and particularly, dear madam,

"Yours,

"JOANNA TURNER."

"14lb. Sugar, 6s."

All her company, whether in the shop, kitchen or parlour, were generally treated with the same spiritual entertainment; not to the exclusion of temporal refreshment—for the poor and needy, the pilgrim and the stranger, were often made welcome to such provision as her house afforded; where, after she married, there was a sufficiency, but not before. For oftentimes, when a housekeeper in her single state,

she went fasting the chief part of a day, and lived on bread and water many days, in order to supply the wants of some poor Christians. But now, being blessed with a husband of the same mind with herself, a deviser of liberal things; who not only rose early, and late took rest, to gain a sufficiency for the support of God's house and poor, but was equally willing with herself, to bestow the fruits of his care and industry; having a heart as much devoted to the cause of God, and consequently, has an equal title to the esteem and admiration of every discerning Christian, as his dear wife had; though his part of the work was more laborious, and less refreshing to the soul; but thus, fellow-labourers together in the Lord's vineyard, as well as true yoke-fellows in the marriage-union; with hands and hearts united in the glorious cause of Christ, they found a sufficiency, as I said before, of simple, wholesome food, dressed in a plain way, and sent to table in a decent comfortable manner. Not garnished or set off with unnecessary trouble or expense, for they aimed to be uniform throughout, in their dress, conversation, table and furniture. All was sufficient for the end designed, but not superfluous; all was neat, decent, clean and comfortable, but not extravagant.

And the Lord so ordered and blessed her spiritual conversation, behaviour, and hospitality to strangers and pilgrims, that she has been the honoured instrument of many conversions in this way. And not a few, who, at first, slighted and hated her discourse, seeing, in a course of years, that her godly conversation was coupled with a becoming demeanour

towards God and man, have since, as much courted her conversation, as they, at first, both hated and despised it.

The first year of their marriage produced a remarkable trial of faith and patience, as they suffered a considerable loss; their house being blown up with gun-powder by the carelessness of a servant boy, who was burnt to death by it. But they had reason to sing of mercy as well as judgment: for just before the explosion, having bolted their doors and windows and extinguished their fires to prepare for bed, they were going into a room, where their lives would have been in imminent danger, but an unusual noise in the streets prevented. A woman of ill-fame was met with by some of the principal inhabitants of the town, who were patroling the streets that night, being threatened with the ravages of an outrageous mob on account of the high price of bread; and as they were dragging her to the house of correction, she made such an uncommon noise with her shrieks and cries, as happily drew their attention and detained them below stairs. That moment the powder took fire; the pannels fell from the wainscots—their candle was blown down and extinguished—the bars and bolts of their windows and doors flew out, and made way for their instant escape into the street, to inquire into the occasion of the noise, not knowing it was their own house solely, but imagining the whole town to be blown up by the rioters. Notwithstanding the tile and glass flew thick about them, they received no hurt to their persons: and many of their neighbours being providentially collected near the door,

immediate assistance was given. And a curtain lead flying from their window through that of an opposite house, where the keeper of the fire-engine slept, awaked him; so that he was quickly ready with the engine, and the fire was soon extinguished.

The house, which they rented, was much injured; but the furniture escaped beyond expectation. Their shop goods were not so much damaged as might have been expected, or would have certainly been the case, had not providence so ordered it, that those things that were buried in the rubbish that fell through the house, were, in general, such as were well secured with paper, &c. The drawers in the shop were but half shook out of their places, and nothing materially damaged but a quantity of salt, which was bought off in a day or two, for salting hay; it being a wet* season for the latter crop: so that they had great cause to sing of the loving kindness of the Lord, who had preserved their lives. And though great inconvenience, and some loss, resulted from the alarming event; yet they were followed by such suitable mercies as excited their attention, prevented murmuring, and disposed them to gratitude; as will be seen in an extract from a letter to Miss B——n on the occasion:—

* The compiler of these Memoirs thinks it may be useful to note here, that she was well acquainted with a farmer, who made use of this experiment of sprinkling salt over every laying of hay, as they made a stack of hay that had been greatly damaged by successive rains; but being seasoned in this manner, he found it prove very palatable and profitable to his sheep, the succeeding spring.

"Praise the Lord, my friend! Praise him, O my soul: Ye holy church throughout the world, acknowledge him your God: All the praises of earth and heaven, of saints and angels—

—"All are too mean to speak his worth,
Too mean to set our Jesus forth!"

God is love, nothing but love: in every dispensation of his providence the same: He has given us, himself: Blessed be his holy name, our cup is full, runneth over: 'All are ours!' Losses, crosses, dispensed tenderly and in love, like as a father pitieth his own children—These are our greatest blessings: The world calls them afflictions; but I praise him for what he has taken: a little of our stuff; that, our hearts were not set upon: and if it be for his glory for us to be deprived of it in this awful affecting way, his will be done: 'All is well' all for good: and I must lie at his dear feet, and adore him for all.

"O my friend, this providence has been so sweetened: the everlasting arms underneath us: I know, I felt them: Who would not wish for his consolations to abound, as he has promised and I have found them, in this season of affliction: Is there such enjoyment in a fulness of creature-comforts, as in one moment's communion with God? If I were stripped of all below, with all this peace and heaven too; methinks I could smile, because Jesus is mine, and I am his, yea, if all nature were dissolving: 'I wait all my appointed time till my change come,' but wish not for it: His will be done, who doth all things well: He loveth at all times: And there is no

adversity in his presence, but a fulness of joy: Praised and adored be his name, I speak that I know: Tell the people of his doings, my dear; lift up your voice like a trumpet—The Lord he is God: the Lord he is God.

"It has made a deep impression: yet I cannot view it but as the loving-kindness of the Lord: Every thing of a distressing nature seems hid from my sight: My and my dear husband's life seems as given us anew: O that we may be made new-creatures: Surely, we are spared for the glory of our God? and the sparing of our lives was more to his praise, at present, speaking after the manner of men, than the destruction of them would have been: The enemies might have shot out their lips and reproached us, as they did our blessed Redeemer, saying, 'He trusted in God that he would deliver him': And many of the dear people of God might have been stumbled at it.

"We have passed through the fire and it has not hurt us; not a hair of our heads has been singed:" our stuff preserved in as wonderful a manner; for 'He careth for us;' We stood still, and his arm brought deliverance: and a great deliverance it is in the sight of the heathen, the heathen tell of his doings; and ascribe to his providence, our preservation."

But after this wonderful preservation of life and property, the Lord was pleased to try their faith and patience a little further: having first prepared them for the stroke by the rich cordials of his peculiar manifestations and abundant consolations. For the incessant heavy rains which fell while the house was

was partly uncovered by the explosion proved more pernicious to their goods, than the fire: as they were obliged to move them from place to place out of the wet. And then, her strong faith began to stagger a little, and she thought, 'if the Lord be not displeased with us, why doth he continue to smite us with stroke upon stroke?' Yet she was enabled still to determine, with Job, to 'trust in him though he should slay her:' and she said to herself, "perhaps, we are set up as an example of suffering and of patience, like Job: and if so, if others are to be benefited by our sufferings, his will, in all things, be done."

As a farther trial of their faith and patience the Lord permitted, in his providence, that they should rather go backward than forward, in worldly things, for two or three years, but not in religious: for when they came to consider how they should retrieve their losses, they mutually determined to save from themselves, not from the cause of God, and therefore they applied more closely to business than ever; doing themselves, each, two or three people's work in the shop, by day; and after the servants were gone to bed, they sat up half the night, settling their accounts, &c.

Having been thus tried for a while and found faithful; the Lord, again, blessed the labour of their hands: restored what they had lost, and increased what he had restored. Nothing, however important, of a secular nature, could divert the attention of our friend from the interest of Christ. With pleasure she saw the congregation continually increase, and

the work of grace increasing in many hearts. Mr. Clark continued devoted to God, and the preaching of the gospel. His preaching was abundantly blessed to her soul, and to the increase of converts to Jesus: and the word of God did so prevail under his ministry, that the preaching house was overthronged. The prospect becoming so promising of a permanent work, our dear friend, with her husband, having been enabled of the Lord to purchase and fit up a convenient dwelling for themselves; indulged the idea of building a commodious place of worship. They foresaw, by the late favourable turn given to their affairs, that, if it should be necessary, they could with propriety take up money at interest for that purpose.

They soon inquired after and had the offer of a piece of ground, and received the estimate of the building. But their pure motives for building; their teachings from the word, spirit, and providence of God; their trials, difficulties, and the blessed success they met with in the work, will best be made manifest, by the following extract from a journal on the occasion, dated 1770.

"For some time past, more than a year, it has been much on my dear husband's heart and mine, to build an house for the Lord. We ourselves being in great prosperity, our own house finished comfortably and beyond our enlarged desires, blessed in our basket and our store; having gained in trade, last year, enough to give us encouragement, besides living in so comfortable a way; we considered, that as, in a few years, if the Lord be pleased to continue our

health and trade, it would be made up again; it were best for us to devote a little more time and labour to the service of that God who gives us every thing, whose are we, and all that we have.

"In August, something likely offered; a proper spot of ground for size and situation; but there were some difficulties to encounter with which were soon overcome: the Lord making our way prosperous, and causing my husband, who is naturally timorous, to be quite courageous in the affair. Sometimes he strengthened his heart by animating his spirits; and, at other times, by applying suitable words of scripture, just in the time of need. For not seeing how to act in regard to purchasing the ground, whether he should give the sum demanded, and crying to the Lord for direction, it came upon his mind to open the bible for a word of advice: which he did at the 1 Chronicles xxi. 24. 'And king David said to Ornan, nay, but I will verily buy it for the full price: for I will not take that which is thine for the Lord, nor offer burnt offerings without cost.' This was an encouraging word, a light to our feet: and in faith, the same day, we made the purchase.

"We cannot think of begging for this sacred work, as it is a custom odious to us; nor do we see it right to refuse the free-will offerings of our brethren, in any measure, that the Lord may incline them. Before we laid the foundation, Mrs. J————n, of Castle-street, Bristol, gave my husband a guinea towards it; which seemed an encouragement from the Lord to proceed.

"The foundation was laid Oct. 25, 1770, by my

husband, and two other friends. At first, the brethren did not seem to feel much concerned to help in the Lord's building. By this, we saw it was our happy privilege; and very frequently, with adoration, cried, why we, Lord, why we: but thought it our duty to acquaint the church, when assembled at the Lord's table, what we had done, and what we were about to do; and begged their prayers: The Lord was pleased to smile upon us; and then, our love and fellowship was great: and constant prayer has been made for the prosperity of the work, by every individual, I believe, from that time.

"Our honoured minister is much blessed, encouraged, and strengthened, by that zeal and love the Lord is pleased to bestow upon us.

"Tobias and Sanballat, the devil, the world, and the flesh, will endeavour to obstruct the work; but, in the name and strength of Jesus we fight and build: Some little alterations from the first plan, unforeseen things, perplexed two or three times, by which we burdened ourselves: but all was for good: brought it all to the first plan again; which I cannot but admire, and see, by it, that they are only our deviations from the divine conduct that bring sorrow. My soul was fixed trusting in the Lord, for the comeliness, conveniency and beauty of the place! My eye is single to please him whom my soul loveth; and in a measure, I had light to see it would be so: and he would make it to please others without our aiming at it! But as it is, blessed be the Lord! my duty to please my husband; it is my delight to have him pleased: so I acquiesce in this work with whatever

he desires, unless I think it contrary to the glory of command of God.

" My beloved sister in the Lord, dear Miss E. J——n of Bristol, who is highly favoured with great nearness to him, encourages much in the work,—in speaking encourages; and, I am assured, in praying for it; and gave my husband five guineas towards it. Ebenezer—hitherto the Lord hath helped us! and blessed be his name, we have not been in the least discouraged ever since we began; but exceedingly strengthened, animated, and blessed! Many of our dear church have thrown in their mite into the treasury, at different times.

" I am ashamed, abased, at my own unworthiness and vileness! My manner of doing things is a constant thorn in the flesh; but, it only sinks me lower at his blessed feet! The Lord condescends to strengthen my faith in him, and my love to him, by an account of the manner of Mr. Whitefield's death: I long to imitate his most exemplary servants! But oh! how short my comings! yet the precious precious " blood of Christ cleanseth from all sin!"

" An unkind letter from a Christian friend at this time concerning the building, much distressed us: but having occasion to take a little medicine which confined me to my room, I desired and expected the Lord's gracious presence; and, blessed be his name, he came; and sweetly overcame my fears, cares and all unbelief! I had such freedom to pour out my soul, such spiritual desires as were truly delightful.

" Jan. 1771. O the wonderful goodness of God! surely, nothing is too hard for him! On taking stock,

as is customary once a year, found such an increase as astonished my dear husband and me! We could scarcely believe for joy! We fell before our dear Lord; adored, praised, and desired all might be devoted and given up to his sacred use and service! Saw with wonder the plain path of duty made for us, could not hesitate a moment about our call to the sacred work! O the condescension of our God, to honour such insignificant worms of the dust as we! And will God, in very deed, dwell with man: O, may others be stirred up to walk in faith.

"I have paid my brethren at Bristol a loving visit for twelve or thirteen days: and came home exceedingly strengthened and refreshed, and the dear people of God prospering here! 'All is well!' the preacher lively, the people loving, numbers attending: On the Lord's-day the house crowded: several desiring to be admitted into our church as members; so that, blessed be the Lord, 'all things do work together for good:' I do believe his constant unchangeable love to us; and that 'blessing he will bless us, and multiplying he will multiply us!' I do believe I shall see greater things than these, hallelujah! praise the Lord."

Before the opening the tabernacle she wrote to her friend, Miss B——n, thus:

"My dear sister,

"By the good hand of our God upon us our tabernacle is almost finished. Next Monday, November, 20, we propose to open it. We invite the fathers, the elders, and the heads of the tribes, as many as the Lord shall incline, to come and help us dedicate

it to him; and to intreat him to fill it with his presence, his glory, till time shall be no more.

"Tell our brethren who love our dear Lord Jesus; tell them, whether they come to partake with us or not, what things the Lord hath done for us, they are marvellous in our eyes! He hath pitched a tabernacle, he dwells among us: The spirit is greatly poured forth in convincing and converting! Come and see: In the first place, we respect and invite the preachers, the ambassadors of Christ among you; and then, as many others as the Lord shall incline."

Mrs. Turner, by the hearty consent of her worthy husband, always kept the annual return of the twentieth of November, or the most convenient day near it, holy to the Lord; in a festive solemn manner; opening their tabernacle for public preaching, and providing a plain, but plentiful, entertainment for ministers and private Christians. On these occasions they have entertained twenty ministers, and two or three hundred people, in the course of the day. Several of the ministers usually divided the services of those days between them. By perusing the following letter she wrote to me, some years after, the reader will see the purity of her views in calling her friends and neighbours together.

"My beloved sister,

"Come to us next Thursday, with your beloved pastor Mr. Sloper, Miss Savage, and as many other friends as shall be inclined to come: and when we are met together in one place and in one spirit, may the Holy Ghost be poured upon us! May we all

be endued with power from on high, and be fresh anointed and sent forth, not to work miracles, or to speak divers languages, but, to live to his praise, to be more conformed to Jesus, more unlike and separated from the world! Pray my beloved friend, oh, pray that the Lord himself may be with us! I think my soul desires this above all things; and that he may send by whom he will send; and divinely strengthen every dear faithful minister, and abundantly bless and strengthen all his spiritual worshippers, and give us all a little taste of heaven.

"If your dear sister could come I should be thankful; but if not, surely, we shall remember her before the king, to send her a portion of the sweetest blessings: But, should we forget her, Jesus her Saviour never will: I do expect great blessings from the Lord; tell dear Mr. Sloper so: My heart is enlarged; mine eye is to the Lord alone, from whom all blessings flow: But ten thousand thanks to him for the love, the delightful fellowship I have with his saints; the excellent of the earth: I can say, in them is all my delight: Adieu; my dearly beloved sister, believe me constantly, and affectionately yours,

"J. TURNER."

"Dec. 1771. By the good hand of our God upon us strengthening us according to our day, the house is finished, devoted, given up to him: and glory be to his adorable majesty, he takes possession: His presence was felt by many on the opening it, Nov. 20, a time to be remembered! The name of the place is,

'The Lord is there:' He bowed his heavens and came down so sweetly into my soul on that day, and does so constantly bless me, it is to my soul as a feast of fat things every time the gospel is preached; and I have a taste of all the blessings bestowed on others: My blessed Immanuel almost constantly smiles upon my soul! Whenever I look to him he gives me such loving commands, and notwithstanding I do all so abominably ill that I deserve nothing but frowns and blows; he covers all my faults, and calls me righteous even as he is righteous! It is such a sweet mystery, but he makes me believe it: He calls me his love, his dove, his undefiled, particularly at his blessed supper; his sister, his spouse, I that am so polluted, so black: but it is in his comeliness, in his righteousness I am complete.

"I think, from my inmost soul, there never was such an unworthy creature so blest: And blessed be his name, there is a great out-pouring of his Spirit upon others: Many are called from the kingdom of Satan; I think, every individual of our society is going from strength to strength, I feel a general growth in minister and people: hallelujah! praise the Lord."

Thus was that respectable place of worship at Trowbridge, commonly known by the name of the tabernacle, set about and completed in faith: Being determined to ask help of no one, as she remarked, but to accept of any thing that was freely offered; they received the inconsiderable sum of 29*l.* 7*s.* from a few friends: exclusive of which, they defrayed the whole of the expense, to their very great astonish-

ment and joy, out of the profits of that year's trade: as may be seen by the remainder of the journal concerning the building.

"Jan. 1772. The Lord still calls us to live by faith on his promises to bear us out: We have taken stock as usual, thinking it prudent, but in confidence: and my dear husband was wonderfully freed from fears, praised be the Lord the Comforter.

"About midnight, as my dear husband and I were employed in the work, after the family was retired to rest, I had such an inexpressible sweetness come over my spirit as exceedingly revived me: I thought my dearest Lord, who pitied us like as a father his children, said, with such an ineffable smile and sweetness: 'Children, this is too much: Why do you expose your health, give up your sleep and ease in order to maintain my cause? I do not desire it: I promise you it is well; it shall be well: you shall never be put to shame; I will never leave nor forsake: blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply; trust me, you shall never be confounded: I know your hearts, your inmost souls; I am not displeased, you design it for my glory: but I shall be as well pleased, and it shall be as well with you, if you omit for the future breaking your rest on account of it.'"

"Many other sweet, precious, familiar expressions seemed to come with such power to my heart, as filled me with joy unspeakable; and I could not but think it a visit from God: and paid us in such a wonderfully suitable manner to the situation we were in, as was astonishing! My soul was filled with adoration, love and praise.

"I told it my dear husband immediately, who, I am sure, felt something of the sweetness: Oh, where shall I sink before the Lord, the lowest of all at his feet, because the most unworthy: I must desire all to give me place there, for it is my due! And in the desire of my soul I would outstrip them in serving, or suffering for his glory: my greatest delight is to serve; O that my dear Lord would teach and make me: All that night I slept as in the arms of Jesus, dreaming of his love; and several times waked myself, speaking of him.

"Jan. 28, 1772. We finished our accounts: and to our very great surprise and abasement, we found our heavenly Father, our adorable Lord, had given us an amazing increase this year; enough to defray the expense of building the tabernacle: with the free-will offerings, and twelve pounds over and above, as wages for our overseeing the work! Our hearts glowed with wonder, love and praise! We were astonished, confounded: It was next to incredible, almost too much to be believed: But we remembered the ancient days, the days of old, believed the promises, and saw the Lord's hand was not shortened: He said, 'prove me:' He said, blessing I will bless thee: fear not, I am with thee, thou worm Jacob; and, is any thing too hard for the Lord."

"We examined, re-examined, put all the accounts into the hands of our dear pastor, who could not find any material error, a few shillings, in the casting up, were the only mistake we could discover.

"Such great things were wonderful to us: it was the Lord's doing, and truly marvellous in our eyes.

"The blessed effect it will have upon us, I hope, will be, to trust the Lord more: to live more to his glory, to believe his promises, obey his precepts! Whatever others do, may we and our house, serve him, cleave to him with full purpose of heart! May we be of Caleb's spirit, be 'all heart' for God! Oh, may he constantly quicken us by his Spirit: for without him we can do nothing, but all things through his strengthening us."

And thus the Lord honoured those with almost miraculous success in trade, who honoured him with their substance, and with the first fruits of their increase! May all that read this be encouraged, in their measure, to go and do likewise.

Thus blest of the most high, on every side, in their minister, their church, their trade, their connexions; prejudice began to wear away from the minds of many that had hitherto set themselves against them; and the world was constrained to esteem and admire where they had not faith to imitate.

Our dear friend in conjunction with her partner in life, was suitably impressed with the sense of her mercies. The flourishing state of the church, and the honour God conferred on her minister, were matter of great rejoicing to her: and she could not but be pleased, to see prejudice insensibly wearing away; and that she began to be esteemed by those who formerly despised her.

For many years the Lord had inspired Mrs. Turner, with a desire to introduce the gospel at Tisbury, in Wilts. She had conceived a great partiality for

that village, because it was Mr. Turner's native place, and quite destitute of the knowledge of salvation by Christ.

By frequent visits she had made herself well acquainted with the forlorn state of the people residing in it: and seemed persuaded, that if the gospel could be introduced, much good would be done. For a long season she laid this matter before the Lord, as Mr. Turner could not, for some time, enter into her views: however, he at last consented to employ a brother on the spot, to look out a house that they might purchase.

In the spring of the year 1781, a house was offered for sale. Just at this period, a legacy of a hundred pounds was left them by a Christian friend, who, in his life, had been a great favourer of the gospel: These two remarkable openings of providence confirmed her in the persuasion that the matter was of God.

The purchase was made: and, having given herself unto prayer for a blessing upon the attempt with Mr. Turner's permission and hearty concurrence, she determined to leave Trowbridge, and all her concerns there, for a time, and go to Tisbury in the strength of the Lord: notwithstanding she knew she had to cope with many rich and powerful opposers of the gospel there; and was likely to be charged with folly and enthusiasm, and accounted a busybody, interfering where she had no call, by many of her dearest christian brethren, who could not enter into the purity of her motives.

The following letter to her dearly beloved relation,

Miss E. J——n, will best describe her inward feelings, and outward sufferings, at this time:

"My dearly beloved sister,

"It is truly delightful to me to receive letters constantly from you! I should have been happy to have seen you at this time, but as you prefer a more distant period, I must acquiesce. As soon as my young friends leave me, I hope you will come to me, either here or at Tisbury.

"I stand with my loins girt, to remove at a day's warning, as soon as the present inhabitants shall quit the house at Tisbury. Sally and I are to go: and do not, my dearly beloved sister, be surprised or in the least alarmed, should the providence of God point your coming to help me there, instead of our staying together at Trowbridge.

"I have a confident hope, strong faith, that wonders will be wrought there in the name of Jesus: I expect the right arm of the Lord to be revealed; a great out-pouring of the Spirit: and that I shall have closer union, greater fellowship with the Lord, than I have ever yet enjoyed: He will be with me: my husband, brother, father, friend; my wisdom, strength, portion, all.

"Come, dear sister, come and partake, richly, freely, of every blessing: There are now Tobias, Sanballat, &c. &c. as in Nehemiah's time, who would weaken the hands, and make sad the hearts of God's people: 'It will answer no end,' say they, 'it will come to nought, it is a wild scheme: How can it be kept up in a future time, at such a distance?' Tra-

ditions of men are, now-a-days, too much attended to even by real disciples.

" O my beloved sister, religion must be the same, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be! God is unchangeable: his word is the standard, the divine rule, still, to try all by: Alas! alas! I cannot forbear taking up a lamentation, and saying, how came, from whence came, ' this innovation, this degradation of our most holy religion?' which is, ' believing on Christ with our hearts, and confessing him with our lips and lives?' I am striving to be a simple follower of Jesus: But if I meet with some little discouragement, I am favoured, blest, with divine assistance; and with much human help: praise God, from whom all blessings flow! It is too large a subject to expatiate on with pen and ink: I trust I shall see you soon, face to face, and tell you some of the peculiar providences, teachings, consolations, and kind corrections, vouchsafed at this time: no good thing is withheld.

" Indeed, my dear sister, I could not leave my pleasant situation, my delightful post, but for the glory of my God, who is the portion of his people: and the happiness of my dear fellow mortals: O pray for me, hold me up by your prayers: Is there a creature upon earth that needs them like me: And, I am sure, there is not a creature upon earth that has so much to be thankful for.

" I should have been happy to have seen dear Mr. Fletcher. I believe he prays for me; and so I believe many do at this time: may all their dear hearts be encouraged: The Lord does hear, he does answer,

prayer! My present employment is very sweet, endeavouring a little to feed those dear lambs with me! And, although my spirit is kept in the most awful solemn frame, yet it is exceedingly sweet: fear does not come nigh me; my peace flows like a river! The good Lord does keep me in perfect peace, with my mind stayed upon him."

In a second letter she writes as follows:

"My beloved Sister,

"I am thankful for one more opportunity of writing before I go. It is truly delightful to me to converse with you, and to hear from you. Glory be to my adorable God, he is pleased to indulge me with a clearer light, and with greater power, to go on in the much untrodden, and therefore much wondered-at path: He vouchsafes, by his Spirit, word, and providence, to lead me in. O, may you, my beloved sister, have a greater degree, larger measure of every heavenly blessing, to confirm, establish, strengthen you in the divine service, if it be his good pleasure to employ you in that part of the vineyard! 'Send Lord, by whom thou wilt send;' All power is thine—none are sufficient in themselves; and thou canst strengthen, use—yea, and work wonders too, by the feeblest worm, that no flesh may glory in thy presence.

"Next week, I hope to go my little pilgrimage to Tisbury. The present is the most solemn period of my life! I experience more peace and power from the Lord, than I have ever been favoured with; perhaps there is more need of it. I wonder, myself, at the testimony I am constrained to bear; the awful

important messages I deliver to the bigotted, worldly-minded professors, with a boldness I never had before. The fear of man, and the desire of pleasing them, contrary to the word of God, is so taken away, that my liberty is inexpressible! What my dearest Lord will be pleased to do with me, by me, for me, I am not careful about: I take no thought for the morrow! He himself will be with me, and—

'With Him conversing, I forget all time:
'All seasons and their change, all please alike!'

"If you should not go to Madely, I beseech you to come up to the help of the Lord, and strengthen the hands of the feeblest servant that ever was employed; a nothing, nothing creature! But the Lord is with me; my helper is the mighty God of Jacob.

"I shall slip away with great quietness; no human strength, parade or show, my spirit will not bear it; no assembling of friends, nor opening a house: wonders must be wrought in the name of Jesus! No denomination, no party to be preferred; no bigot, if I know it, of any party to be admitted: my spirit has suffered so much from these, that I cannot but shrink from the very appearance of bigotry.

"You would rejoice, my dear sister, at the goodly company among the preachers that have offered themselves willingly; my heart is indeed with them. Who can tell what a great matter, this little fire, in the hands of our great and good God, may kindle!"

In another letter, she says, "Our design of bringing the gospel to Tisbury is amazingly rumoured round a vast neighbourhood. Great risings of heart and threatenings, I hear, are the consequence; and

frequent assembling together of the clergy and rich farmers to obstruct our coming; but if the Lord permit, who shall hinder?"

In the month of May, 1781, Mr. and Mrs. Turner went to Tisbury, to attend the manor-court, and take possession of their new purchase; but only stayed one day, the house being yet tenanted. Some persons, who had received a hint of their intention, met them, and congratulated them on the business, with expressions of joy, that the gospel was like to come within their reach. Mrs. Turner considered these unexpected congratulations as a token for good; nor was she disappointed of her hope.

A few weeks after, Mrs. Turner, with a man and maid servant, went to reside there, for a time; and as soon as they arrived they published preaching for the ensuing Saturday. The following letter to her dearly beloved husband, gives an account of their first week's proceeding, employment, and prospect of success:—

"My dear Thomas,

"Your wife should be the humblest, thankfullest creature upon earth, to God and man, she is so laden with benefits! 'Mercy and truth follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever!'

"Thank you for your dear letter by Mr. C——. I hope you were carried home safe; I felt for you all the afternoon you left me, besides pangs of the tenderest affection at parting. The awful weather was a great affliction, thinking how you were exposed

Not that I had a doubt of the goodness of my heavenly Father; to Him I commended you, to Him I shall ever commend you, who is a present help in every time of need.

"Tisbury is just the same to me as Trowbridge, my God is as near to me! I stand in need of constant support and supply from Him; and, blessed be his name, he does graciously afford strength according to my day. My employment is the same, telling of his goodness, love and power; my own and my dear fellow-immortals, vileness and weakness. I am greatly astonished at the attention of all I have spoken to, young and old; and the understandings of many seem in a degree enlightened. The Lord inclines their hearts to hear, in the most favourable manner, what a poor worm speaks out of the abundance of her heart, from love to their souls, and strong desires to glorify her dear Lord and Saviour!

"One of your relations, seemed a good deal affected at the thought of my coming to reside among them, said, 'he believed the preachers would not have been received in any other manner; but there was no doubt but they would now!' Surely, the Lord's ways are in the great deep! What we know not at present, we are taught in future; I mention this for your still greater reconciliation to my absence.

"Oh, that the Lord may speak to the hearts of the people here! May there be a great out-pouring of the spirit! my eyes are to the Lord, and my expectation from him. Indeed, I never saw before, so extensive a prospect of the spread of the Gospel in a new place. Oh, that Satan may not be permitted to frustrate!

"I am more and more satisfied and assured, that I am where I ought to be, and, 'to obey, is better than sacrifice!' The approbation of my God is to me abundantly better, than all the enjoyments of life; and these I have too!

"My soul followeth hard after God; none but he can help the people, I endeavour to point them all to Him; I want nothing, but more of his blessed self, his Spirit, likeness to him, in every action, every temper. How ashamed, how sorry am I, for all that is contrary; and indeed, that is every thing I think, say, or do. All day long my refuge is in Jesus; my happiness, that 'his blood cleanseth from all sin!'

"I think sometimes, 'When things here are settled, and the workmen have finished, I shall be so happy!' and immediately recollect the folly of deferring the expectation of happiness one moment, or hoping for it in any thing here below, it being to be enjoyed only in God. Employment, station, situation, are not the least impediment.

"William and Sally are great helps to me, in every respect. Last night, brother William, Mrs. Shepherd and her daughter, were with us. We read a sermon; we sang and prayed, and the Lord strengthened and blessed us all together.

"You cannot conceive the sweet openings of Providence, and blessed teachings of the Spirit to my own soul, I am favoured with, to gently lead, allure, and draw the people to the Lord; it is heavenly employment! I give up my time to all that come.

"Shall be glad of more of the dialogues, and some few of 'Dr. Watts' Second Catechisms for Children.'

The place before our house is their play place, and very noisy they were the first two evenings. I intend to invite them all into my house, and give a halfpenny each, to play at some other place; and at the same time, perhaps, to speak to them largely of their soul affairs. So that, I suppose I shall soon have some catechumens; and the service of my Lord is perfect freedom.

"By his good hand he has brought me hither, to speak comfortably, and to cherish a few disciples, who are languishing and withering, for want of the Saviour being preached to them, as all-sufficient and all-sufficing. Some others, seem to have a desire to please God, if they did but know the way: others are amazingly ignorant; but either out of curiosity, novelty, or other motives, all seem willing to hear, desirous to attend to me and treat me with love.

"Indeed, it is visible to myself, God has put an awe upon the inhabitants at present, so that I hope none of the dear ministers hearts will sink; for here is a large and open door—abundant labours to enter into, for the glory of God.

"You know I am averse to tattling; none are indulged by me to speak the least offensive thing; all is solemn and devout. Some one said, 'the clergyman intended to pay us off at church to-morrow;' but I hope I have ever since heartily prayed for him, that he may be pardoned and converted. I do not talk about the ministers here, but the concerns of precious immortal souls.

"You cannot think how spontaneously I fall into what I suppose is, the custom of the country, asking

all your relations to eat and drink; and I see they shew their good will towards you by eating and drinking. There appears to me something pleasing and primitive in the custom, when it is not abused.

"My dear, you must be sure to send me preachers: for all the world, but this corner in which I am, seems as much out of my reach as if there were an ocean to be crossed. But if our dear brethren will pray for us, and come regularly to help us—'all is well!' 'Send Lord, by whom thou wilt send,' but let the message be to the hearts and consciences.

"The Lord is our protector, by night and by day; for there is not a lock on any door of the house, at present, and but one bolt. Sally fastens one with a bit of chip; the window shutters with feather-quills; and with a string of our small pack-thread she ties the latch of another door. I smile, and tell her—'she must have something besides God to trust in, if it be but a string of pack-thread.' Thus, we sweetly experience the Lord's protecting arm: He calls us to it; it cannot be otherwise at present; neither the workmen nor any others are to be blamed. God willing, shall see you next week, to order the alterations in the house. 'The Lord God Omnipotent reigneth!' therefore, never fear for me.

"Hope dear Mr. Newborn will be most divinely strengthened. My soul travails, as it were, in birth for this place; for the spiritual deliverance of its inhabitants."

Mr. Newborn, a student of the Countess of Huntingdon's, came and preached on the Saturday evening, and three times the next day, and the following

extract from a letter to her niece B——t, now Mrs. L——k, gives an account of the reception his message met with.

"It was astonishing—the great gathering together of the people, and their very solemn, decent, respectful behaviour. Much opposition had been meditated, but little made: an egg was thrown, but did not break. An attempt was made to blow horns, but the sound was so low as to give no interruption. Some efforts were used to set the dogs on barking, but the most they produced was only a low snarling, and that soon ceased. The adorable Lord gave the preacher such power over the hearts of the people, that if he did but say, 'Do not mind what they do, mind me, who am speaking to you in the name of the Lord;' all their eyes were presently turned upon him again. Silent tears stole down the cheeks of many; and many remarkably wicked persons have forsaken their wickedness.

"O, praise the Lord for his wonderful goodness to the children of men! My feelings for that country are so strong, that if it were the will of my God, I could happily reside among them, all my remaining days below: but I can do nothing but pray my God to bless them, and that I can do when at Trowbridge.

"There is indeed, my dear, a blessed prospect! All the ministers, (and there is a fresh one every week) have felt most divine animations. There is a visible alteration in many. We purpose, with divine permission, to erect a chapel there. We have purchased ground, and as the Lord puts it into our hearts, he will bear us through this, and every other delight-

ful service, he honours us the unworthiest of creatures with.

"You will be very happy, when you come to live with us, my dear niece, to be sometimes there. It is a divine retreat, most delightful country; but it is the love of God that makes us happy as well as holy.

"If you have an opportunity to speak to Mr. J——s and Mr. S——n, who were both so kind as to promise me some bibles, and if there were with them, some of 'Dr. Watts' Second Catechisms for Children,' they might be very useful. I do not think, in any part of England, there is a greater want of them, or of the word of God.

"I have distributed many books, and a blessing has visibly attended some: If you see the Rev. Mr. B——n, before you leave London, tell him, the Lord is a prayer answering God! The morning I set off for Tisbury, it was under the sweet influence of his prayers for success; and I hope he will not faint, but continue to hold up all our hands, and others of the dear servants of the Lord: Elias was a man of like passions; and yet, by prayer, he shut and opened heaven; and it is 'a weapon,' Mr. Hart says, 'the weakest can wield the best.' Never, never before did I need, did I experience, so much of the divine power and love extended towards me."

The most notoriously wicked wretch in the parish, she says, in another letter, was awakened under the first sermon. He was a great drunkard, and so involved in his circumstances, by his extravagancies, that he was driven almost to destroy himself; who

from that time continued in the good ways of God, and became a good husband, good father, and a useful member of society.

The instances of success attending the word preached, are too numerous to be inserted here! And our friends were encouraged to promote and put forward the building a very neat little chapel; of which, and the increase of converts, she speaks thus in a letter to her beloved cousin, dated Tisbury, Oct. 17, 1781.

"My beloved sister,

"My Lord is with me: He calls a worm, his friend, he calls himself, my God!—Wonders are wrought here in the name of Jesus: never, never did I see, or expect to see, so great a spread of the gospel, and as deep and solid as it is wide: But it is all the Lord's doings: He shall have all the glory; and all my poor abilities shall be constantly exerted, to teach the people, yea, all the people, to ascribe all to him.

"Here are lions indeed turned into lambs: The dispositions and behaviour of many are visibly different, as the fierce and savage, from the meek and gentle: These things, my beloved, cannot but greatly strengthen my hands, and animate my heart, in the blessed service of my divine master.

"The number of living witnesses already raised up in this place, is a sure token, a clear call to us, to erect a chapel, in which they may assemble quietly together. By the good hand of God upon us, the foundation is laid, the sacred walls are most delight-

fully raising: But it is amazing, the envious, malicious, but impotent efforts of every kind, that are made by the heads of the parish to hinder the work.

"Almost every day produces something new: and, blessed be the Lord, he as constantly watches over, preserves, defends and encourages his poor dust: How great, how conspicuous, his goodness and power: Surely, he 'carrieth his lambs in his arms, and gently leadeth those that are with young;' for, until I returned again amongst them, they were not suffered to break out and disturb the destitute sheep.

"Soon after I came hither, the 15th verse of the 41st of Isaiah, was strongly impressed upon my mind; 'Behold, I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth: thou shalt thresh the mountains, and beat them small, and shalt make the hills as chaff.' And almost the next time I read the bible, I was struck with these words, 'Arise and thresh, O daughter of Zion: for I will make thine horn iron, and I will make thy hoofs brass, and thou shalt beat in pieces many people: and I will consecrate their gain unto the Lord, and their substance unto the Lord of the whole earth:' Micah 4. 13. If these poor great men could prevent, they would not let us have workmen, materials, carriage, nor even sand for mortar, we are forbid that: and yet we are not hindered, want for nothing, nor in the least put to a stand!"

While the chapel was building, another house was licensed for preaching, at Ebsbourn; whither the minister went from Tisbury, to preach, at one o'clock,

every Lord's-day. Thus she speaks of it in the same letter:—

"We have another house licensed, six miles from hence, and great success attends the preaching there; but it is too far for me to walk, and no one here dares lend me a horse. Satan roars, as he does here: but can do no more. A convert from thence came to us yesterday, a solid man. They have blown horns, twice, to disturb; but now they are more peaceable.

"The dear people are fitting up a place themselves for preaching, and a stable for the horse. They are a most blessed people; have met together for mutual edification near a year; came to our first preaching, and besought us to come over and help them."

On Lord's-day, the sixteenth of October, in the forenoon, a society was formed of those who were truly united to Christ: and thus she speaks on the occasion:—

"Yesterday, in the forenoon, the foundation of a church of Christ, the living God, was laid here! Some lively stones, that I trust are spiritually united to God, and to each other in Christ, are sweetly appointed, to strengthen each others hands in him: Mr. Beaufoy, a student of lady Huntingdon's, speaking to them, first, from Malachi iii, 16, 17. 'Then they that feared the Lord, spake often one to another, and the Lord hearkened and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels, and I will

spare them as a man spareth his own son that serveth him :' Two of the men were as great swearers and drunkards, as any in the place, before the preaching commenced."

To Mr. Turner she writes thus: ' Blessed be the Lord, many hearts are opening, and opened, here, by the mighty power of God, to receive the word in the love of it: I am quite in my element, giving glory to him: for ' all the good that is done upon the earth, he doth it himself :' All this and heaven too.

" This is a sweet, sacred retirement: my soul is enjoying such nearness to my God, as I am not usual favoured with: Now, my dear, I can with confidence assure you, the matter is of the Lord: We used to say, if but one soul were converted to God, it were worth all the expense, all the trouble: How good, how kind is the Lord, that hath already brought to our knowledge one notorious sinner, and one of a pharisaical turn, that was brought to the Lord by the first sermon, and several others, by every sermon since.

" Now the seed sown begins to spring up, in my sight, to my great joy, and to the glory of my God: Even young children are filled with such zeal, that they want to reprove gainsayers. Tell mother, she may live a little heaven upon earth here, if she is in a spirit of submission and adoration. I have told the people of her taking my place here, for a time, and Jenny Walk, her convert in the Lord, is delighted.

" I have not permitted gossiping conversation here: and, I hope none will ever be admitted under

this sacred roof, dedicated to Almighty God, set apart for his worship: May every future inhabitant feel his presence, think, speak and act, under his eye, honour him and he will honour them.

"It is a Bethel: I must give it the name, from the fullest sweetest experience of its being none other than the house of God, and the very gate of heaven, to my soul: Thy will, I say continually, my God, be done, in me, by me: but that goodness, love and power, thou hast so richly and constantly caused to pass before me, make this place so delightful to my own soul, that if it were thy heavenly will, I could gladly spend the remainder of my days in this sweet retirement; and here, with my beloved husband, sweetly fall asleep in Jesus; But, if my Lord is pleased to call me again, into the busy, and into the religious world, he will support me: He will supply my every future want!

"With him conversing, I forget all time,
All seasons and their change, all please alike!"

O, what a blessed, what a soul-satisfying portion is the Lord.

"Yesterday, I paid a sweet visit to the poor at the work-house: surely, it is to the poor the gospel must be preached.

"This is written with so bad a pen that I would destroy it; but consider, it was dedicated with a good design, from my heart, and to a loving friend, that will cast the mantle of love wherever it is necessary.

"O thou tenderest, best of husbands: thou dost

deserve the best exertions of my poor abilities: and when I return home, my God will strengthen me to assist thee in the toils of life, and recompense thy care with the kindest endearments.

"Friday morning. O my dear, how good the Lord is: My life should be, and indeed it is, in a measure—All thanksgiving! I see so much cause to praise: His works praise him, his saints must bless him! The springing up of the glorious gospel-seed, is most delightful to me to behold: Surely, here is an amazing out-pouring of the Spirit: 'What can David say, will the Almighty dwell with man?' Yes, he will, he does: Blessed are my eyes that see it, my ears that hear it: It is not, the passions only touched! but sinners are really turned from their sins; they hate them, and have power against them! And is it not the Lord that girdeth them with strength though they do not know it is he, but tell me, that 'They were never so happy in their lives, and they trust in the Lord they shall always live in his fear.'

"Here is such a lisping forth the praises of Jesus, they carry their hymn-books in their pockets, and read them every opportunity: and they taste such real pleasure, that the scoffs and jeers of their old companions, are but little regarded by them.

"Here are no complaints of doubting; I do not know that I have heard the word mentioned: The Lord gives faith: the gospel report is believed by many: and Christ saith, 'He will not break a bruised reed, but will gently lead those that are with young."

"Henry S——k, our first convert, appears to me

full of simplicity and godly sincerity: What a lion turned into a lamb is he: O! what am I, that his soul should be given me: Night and day, I cannot but praise God for this 'brand plucked from the burning:' I never before rejoiced so much at any conversion, but my own: Indeed, my soul feels an inexpressible relation to his: Oh! how good, how good the Lord is.

"I never before saw such a speedy, and, to present appearance, powerful, spread of the gospel: Oh, may no malignant blights and blasts be suffered to fall upon us, or rise up to spoil the precious fruit: Pray, my dear husband, pray and praise for us: Oh that the Lord may come with every one of his dear servants, that offer themselves willingly to his delightful work: My heart is indeed with them, before, at, and after their work, praying that they may have a blessed reward.

"The Lord comes to my help, dwells in my heart, is with me every where, and at all times; and shall I fear any thing but sin: That would grieve his Spirit, cause him to withdraw! I do not fear hosts of men, nor legions of devils: What can they do without divine permission? And my Lord 'keeps me as the apple of his eye: has graven me on the palms of his hands; waters me every moment; keeps me by night and by day.'

"My dear husband, I do long to be more like Christ! Well, the Holy Spirit does sweetly enlarge my heart, expand my soul: I am on the tiptoe, on the stretch, for heavenly advancement here on earth! And I will tell you, my dear, the height of my am-

bition, is, to submit to every thing, but sin, to be passive in the Lord's hands: But most painful feelings I expect still to pass through, from different causes, the strength, and the weakness of my nature: Do not, my beloved, be anxious one moment for me: Under evil report, I run to my God for shelter; and in good report, I thank him for inclining the heart, and lay all my honors at my Redeemer's feet.

"After you left me, I had a most pleasing sense of the Lord's goodness to us: He would not permit us to have things mean, though he gave me a holy indifference to the things of this life. Every thing you have done and ordered, I see, is right; and you cannot think how neat my little cottage will be by the time you come.

"In about six minutes I drew a plan for the garden, which William has executed. I talk to none but about eternal things, except what is absolutely necessary: and, I bless God, that I have frequently delightful seasons of that kind: It is wonderful, indeed it is wonderful, the spread of the truth the few weeks that it has been preached here: A good foundation is laid, a most beautiful and glorious temple is rising, to the admiration of some, and hatred of others. How thankful, my dear Thomas, should you and I be, to be made servants in this glorious work: What an honor to serve such a Master, who so sweetly teaches, lovingly assists, strengthens, bears through and furnishes with every thing: What happy partakers are we of his loving favor, now in time, and to eternity it will be growing inconceivably great.

"And besides being happy ourselves, Oh my dear, to be instrumental to the salvation of others, it is all that is worth living for: While we see so many, either unscripturally laying up treasures upon earth; or others, as sinfully consuming it upon their lusts, to have it put in our hearts, to devote to the Lord whatever he is pleased to give us, for it is all his own; what an honor: what a privilege.

"Thursday—O the sweetness of reposing in God, confiding, trusting, in him alone, for protection as well as direction: Last night, brother William said, he thought there should be watchers; as the stable-wall is down, every thing open, and the new raised wall so weak as yet, that there was great danger, not only from thieves, but malicious people might pull down the work by night: but I durst not be afraid of, nor confide in man! Firmly believing the promises of God in the 41st of Isaiah, and most heartily commending ourselves to the Almighty, we have had a most delightful night; and all so peaceable and prosperous this morning; that nothing but the power and presence of God can cause: The work goes on well to-day, and every person fully and properly employed."

Whilst the walls of the outward church were raising, the inward was increasing daily in many hearts; and thus she speaks of the progress of the work to Miss E. J——n:—

"Ebenezer—hitherto the Lord hath helped me, my beloved in the Lord: I am returned to this place again, and find all well; the society enlarged, four added since I was here last. Several more, I sup-

those, will soon be added. The number of hearers likewise increases. But it is the poor that receive the gospel: as yet, the richer sort grow more and more averse, more despising, more rejecting: notwithstanding the judgments God has been pleased to execute amongst them, and the visible outstretching of his arm of power, to defend and protect his defenceless ones, from all their attempts against us.

"I sensibly perceive Satan cast out of many hearts, and taking stronger possession of some others. He has had great power, for many ages, in these parts: but one that is stronger, the Almighty Jesus, is come to help, and wondrous things I do expect from him.

"I do assure you, my dear sister, it is not fancy, I speak that I see, and testify that I feel: I have not, since Mr. Whitefield's time, known such a divine unction, such constant power of the Spirit, attend the ministry of the word, as in this place, whoever were the preacher: Our poor brother Watts was there a fortnight ago, and made such a blessing: The glory belongs to God; for he is all the power.

"I have more than twenty children come to be catechised, boys and girls. They learn amazingly fast: I have them Tuesdays and Fridays, from five to six; and a most pleasing employment it is: May it be blest to each of their precious souls: With Sally's assistance we sing a hymn for children: and, not to over-burden them, but that they may remember the better, I endeavour to inculcate one duty at a time upon them. The first meeting was employed in advising them to behave well; to be quiet and

orderly in the streets; at home, abroad, and every where; which they promised to mind: the next, in admonishing them against telling lies, which I charge every one to keep in mind. Little, as this employment may appear, I cannot express what a solemnity and delight my soul feels in it! And, as I did not come here to be idle, on Thursdays, from six to seven, I meet some sober, and, I hope, awakened young women: may they be as lights in this place, and others be made to follow them, as they follow Christ.

"The dear society is met on the Lord's-day, by the minister. And on the Wednesday evening, they meet together for reading or prayer: and my husband's brother is raised up, by the mighty power of God, to be a leader: I am much blest under his simple prayers! Last night he read over one of Mr. Whitefield's sermons. The work deepens in their hearts, and they so freely confess and acknowledge it, without the quibbles and fears of many we converse with, in old churches! A church that is truly glorious seems raising here! Blessed are my eyes that see it."

About this time she writes thus to Mr. Turner concerning the society: "It is the poor that are to have the gospel preached to them: and blessed be God, here is a glorious troop; and highly favoured souls they are: Others, want to be in the society: and I think all that desire it should be admitted, that appear to have spiritual light and life, by their speech and behaviour: that leaving their old companions and practices, they may associate together with one

accord, praying, speaking together, exhorting and edifying one another.

"I have formed into a society those who profess to be on the Lord's side. This, I think, will be a mean to preserve from extremes: from neglecting those that appear concerned about their souls, and from making too much of those appearances, which sometimes die away. By this mean, those that are feeble may be strengthened: for, surely, none want helps of every kind, more than newly convinced souls; it seems unkind and unscriptural, to slight and neglect those that appear to be babes in Christ! So, you see, my beloved, I am to work a little in this vineyard, and, I believe, it is at my Lord's command."

What opposition and success she met with in forming this society, will be seen by part of a letter to Miss E. J——n:

"I left the dear people of Tisbury with much soul-satisfaction, and without fear, believing the adorable Head will replenish them out of that fullness there is in him; that they will, all that are united to him by faith, receive grace for grace. The last week I was there, Satan, by his emissaries, seemed to stride across the road to weary me with fatigue, and prevent every step that I took for settling them in gospel order, and under proper encouragement and discipline: but, blessed be the Lord, he was my helper; and every thing that I desired was brought to pass.

"A society is established for the benefit of young converts, upon declaring what God hath done for

their souls; six were added to it the last Lord's day I was there. A church also is congregated, of those who are more established, consisting of twenty-three members, Ebsbourn and Tisbury together. And two elders have been appointed to serve, supply, and watch over them, my husband's brother for Tisbury, and a precious soul for Ebsbourn, that resides there: these have received the Lord's-supper together, once; and it appears likely they will have it monthly."

By this time the chapel was nearly finished: and the following extracts of letters to Mr. Turner, will shew, with what readiness and willingness she gave up her time and talents to the Lord: and what sacred encouragements she was enabled to afford her husband, from time to time, to strengthen his hands in the work:—

"Don't be surprised, my dear love, at receiving a letter from me. I have nothing but good-tidings to communicate! Notwithstanding my boasting in the Lord so frequently as I do, of my freedom from creatures, and how little pain my connexion with them gives me, freedom, I mean, from over-valuing them, my heart felt at parting with thee, and still feels the strongest pangs I have ever yet felt: But I see and feel that I am in the path of duty! am greatly delighted with the chapel, it is the sweetest place now the scaffolding is down: Be strong, my dear, be of good courage in this blessed work: it is the most honourable, most useful, and shall I not say, most delightful, that creatures can be employed in! 'Fear not, only believe' that God calls and will bear you through! Read the prophet Haggai, read Mal-

achi, read the last chapter of Zephaniah, and read Nehemiah, the experience of these dear brethren that have gone before us! and may we follow them as they followed the Lord; and not take the formalists, the lukewarm, the worldly minded professors, for our pattern! I have been greatly refreshed and strengthened by those scriptures I recommend to thee, thou beloved of my heart.

"I think it is the most pleasing place I ever saw of the kind: the neatness of it, now it is finished, is striking to me, it so greatly exceeds my expectation: Oh! how good the Lord is, so greatly to indulge his poor creatures, dust and ashes as we are: He knew our hearts: He knew our aim was to exalt him; to set him forth, to make him known: and he strengthens, teaches, and does all, in us, for us, with us, by us.

"When I observe how exquisitely fine and well the plasterers temper their mortar, every ingredient so finely mixed, I wish, I pray that I and my dear husband may be so well tempered; every grace of the Spirit, every virtue, every thing that is for the Redeemer's glory, so mingled in our spirits, words, and actions: I see, my dear, what foolish children we are, still, in the school of Christ: we expect ripe fruit from trees while they are rooting: at such a season we should be thankful for the least symptom of life; and not expect fine rich juicy fruit. The plumb-tree Mr. W—— gave us helps me to this instruction.

"Thursday evening, past 9 o'clock. I have had a most delightful visit from brother William, and Henry

Snook: heavenly conference we enjoyed together, and your dear brother had such blessed liberty in prayer! These two converts are worth millions, praise the Lord; there is such solidity, life, and power in them: Thy brother is wiser than the aged; he is, indeed, a monument of mercy.

"The weather is exceedingly boisterous; but, I have a sweet comfortable habitation! Oh, my dear, I do not wonder the best of men should love retirement! were you but to live with me here, how happy should I be! The near, the familiar, the sweet access to my heavenly Father, that he indulges me with, will rejoice you, I know, to hear, and prevent your kindly fearing or caring, with loving anxiety, for me! He permits, and I am well satisfied! His divine majesty is pleased and smiles upon my soul, whilst I beg him to bless with the choicest of his blessings my beloved husband, to make up abundantly my absence, with his loving presence: Never, never was I more united to thee than I am here: though absent in body, am present in spirit, yea one with thee.

"My next great important request next to that for the renewal of my own nature; and that I, and my dear husband, may have heavenly dispositions, and be truly meetened for heaven here below, is; 'that the Lord will be pleased to fill the house we have built for his adorable majesty, with his blessed presence.'"

In another letter she writes thus:—

"Now for a little converse with my beloved husband, God has most sweetly united us in himself: it is an

indissoluble, an everlasting union: 'Here I am, the living, the living, to praise the Lord:' want nothing, but you to be with me, to share the divine pleasure my soul so richly enjoys.

"This is life: answering the end of our creation; in attempt at least. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and enjoy him for ever. However men may ridicule, censure and blame, and even carnal formal professors sneer, I must bear an honest testimony, at this time, to thee who canst credit it, who wilt believe, that I never lived and acted so much to my soul's satisfaction; never had so strong a witness of the Spirit, so clear evidence from the word of God, of my being in the right way: the way the patriarchs, the apostles, the primitive Christians, trod, the way of obedience; submitting to be taught and governed, as well as saved, by the adorable Jesus! If the bible is to be our rule of conduct, we are right, my beloved, we are right; however the zeal and love of many, is, now-a-days, waxing cold: Let us now be content to be laughed at, by those who think they are so much wiser, in adding field to field, and house to house; and satisfy conscience by the most stupifying opiates of, sound creeds, decent behaviour, or, any thing, but right faith, and true devotedness of heart, lip, life, time, talents, soul and body, the whole to be at the Lord's disposal.

"Satan, I know, is a powerful foe, he made his first attack upon the woman alone; and, if he find it will answer his purpose better, he will assault the man alone. Notwithstanding he is indeed the head, and superior to woman; yet Satan, by force or fraud,

will make the attack: but resist him, my beloved, resist him, and he will flee: Thus it is written! The whole scripture, from Genesis to Revelations, points out a life of faith and obedience as our rule: such as thy wife, in a little measure, 'though faint, is pursuing!' Jehovah is on our side, and no matter who sneers, and counts thee a fool, now.

"For some time past I have felt strong desires for conformity to my Lord; and, now, it is so sweetly explained to me that I am treading in his steps, in my little measure: He had love to souls; so should I: Oh. what did he leave; what did he do; what did he suffer! Words cannot express the favours I receive of a heavenly kind, every thing my soul needs.

"I verily believe there is not a creature upon the earth under such sacred obligations as myself, the unworthiest, and yet so blest: The blessings vouchsafed to my soul in this place, are worth millions of gold: And believe me, my dear, had I never received the least token for good from my adorable Lord; the multitude of spiritual blessings I see vouchsafed to others, are worth, indeed they are, and ten million times more, all the labour, all the expense, thou hast bestowed here.

"Be strong, my dear Thomas, be strong in the Lord: We are acting in his name! He is with us, and will stand by us: Great power my God gives me over the spirits of men here: Is it not written in Hebrews, 'Out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, put to flight the armies of the aliens."

Concerning opening the chapel, she writes thus to her cousins Johnson :—

" I should acquaint you that the chapel is almost finished. I suppose it will be quite so, next week; but think it best to let it get dry before we open it: as the weather is so cold we can meet as usual. I assure you it is the most pleasing place my eyes here behold: perhaps the tabernacle at Trowbridge, was first beheld with some of the same sacred emotions of gratitude, delight, and love.

" But come, my dear sisters, and invite as many of the holy brethren as you can, to help us give a sacred shout, that shall make heaven rejoice, and hell tremble: You shall know when the day is fixed. Many here will lend beds: some say, ' They will sit up all night themselves, rather than there should not be lodgings for pilgrims and strangers :' a blessed night could we have in prayer and praise.

" A day or two before I came here, those sweet words thrilled through my soul, ' I am with thee !' It is enough, my dearest Lord, I cried: having thee, I possess all things, I want no more."

To Mr. Turner she writes thus:—

" This is the first time I am set down at leisure since my dear Thomas's absence. O ! how infinitely good is the Lord to me, the unworthiest of his creatures: He has been pleased to take from me every care about finishing things, and concluding matters, against the time appointed for opening the chapel. I am not, must not be, a cumbered Martha, but, Mary, to be ever, ever at the Saviour's feet: It is there alone I am happy: it is there alone I have true enjoyment!

My whole heart is desiring his blessed company, his spiritual presence in his house, and that he will bless the spiritual victuals with increase, and 'satisfy his poor with bread,' on that day: He has promised, and I am sure he will on that day, and in future days: Glorious things shall be seen and felt.

"On Sally's reading to me this morning, I was deeply affected with heartfelt grief and astonishment, at two things: the one that my dear Saviour, when in a body here upon earth, should say, 'He had not where to lay his head'—it made me weep: I breathed out my soul to him, and said, 'He should have had my house for his home, if I had seen him destitute:' And then I asked myself, if I could, if I were willing, now to open my house to his members? Yes, our blessed Lord hath made us willing, we are, my dear Thomas, through his strengthening us! Whatever others do, we will follow the Lamb of God, whithersoever he goeth, and to whatsoever he leads us, by his Spirit, word, and providence! And Oh: how sweetly do I enjoy his spiritual presence at this time! He is with me in my heart, or there would not be such delightful peace, and joy, and love.

"The other thing which affected me, was, holy grief, that the Gergasenes should beseech him to depart out of their coasts, because they lost a little substance, a few swine! O my dear, what is worldly substance, what are earthly things, which are but for a moment, in comparison of eternity.

"Every thing goes on wonderfully well! I have not the least doubt, care, nor fear, but all will be properly completed against the time! I cast every

care upon my Almighty God, for I cannot sink, but soar! We shall have a pentecost blessing, my dear Thomas, a great out-pouring of the Spirit, our adorable Saviour's spiritual presence with us.

"Invite all, for my heart is opened to all, that love the Lord Jesus: and here is abundance of room! My lines are cast in a goodly place; my cup runs over! The Lord is my shepherd, and I shall want no good thing, 'no good cross, nor no good comfort:' My kind love to all christian friends; and as many as can, bid them come: O! how sweet is my employment: My dear it was certainly the Lord that put it in our hearts to build this house, this little temple, this sanctuary, for the most high to dwell in! Read what David says, on the same most solemn occasion: He was a man after God's own heart, genuinely and zealously devoted to him, notwithstanding all his sins and infirmities: and by his grace and goodness, he has made us so too: Be of good courage, my dear, the Lord has accepted us in his beloved Son, and all our poor services he is pleased with, it is our best we offer: It is inexpressible the divine pleasure I feel, the heart-cheering, soul-satisfying sense I feel, of the divine approbation."

Wednesday, May the 22d, 1782, the day the chapel was opened, was kept holy to the Lord. Christians of every denomination came, according to those kind invitations before mentioned, with their respective ministers: many of whom engaged in the public services, morning, afternoon, and evening, either in preaching or prayer; and it was a time never to be forgotten.

It is scarcely possible for persons who were strangers to Mrs. Turner, to conceive the joy the solemnities of that day afforded her. With her usual affability she received, and took more or less respectful notice of all. No hurry, confusion, or distraction appeared in her, notwithstanding she had much to do: but with as much ease as though she was enjoying a private friend, she dealt out the repast of her table, morning, noon, and evening, between the sacred services, to many large companies in succession. And while one party was eating; others, were resounding the high praises of their God through the house, by singing hymns in the different apartments.

Having built and opened a temple for sacred service, she had the happiness of seeing a continued increase of spiritual worshippers, and, with exquisite delight, spent great part of her time at Tisbury; using every method providence put in her way, to instil divine knowledge into its inhabitants.

Jan. 3, 1783, She writes thus to her cousins while I was with her:—

"In the midst of the most sacred, most beloved employments, I must converse with my beloved sisters, and acquaint them in some measure, with the nature of my present enjoyments. O, how good is my adorable triune God, to cause such great goodness to pass before me. Marvellous is the prosperity of the church, the spread of the gospel in this place.

"My heart is fainting at the greatness, the magnificence, of the works of the divine, the spiritual Solomon: The few that were first planted here,

grow and flourish wonderfully, are blessed with such simplicity and godly sincerity, such holy zeal and sound minds, that they are neither formal nor enthusiastical! Thanks be to God, the Father, Son and Spirit, they are living witnesses in word and in action: Such power follows the public preaching, and such numbers attend, that the house is crowded; and the stillness and attention is greater than even at Trowbridge.

"Their private meetings for prayer, of which they have two in a week; where the dear children of God find liberty, sweetly to supplicate the throne of grace, and agree touching what they ask, are the most blessed meetings of the kind I ever attended.

"It is the best wine still at last. Who am I, or my father's house, that mine eyes should behold such great things! And the prospect is, of abundantly greater; this little cloud portends much greater things.

"Mrs. W——s is with me; our time is filled with directing inquiring souls who flock to us, to behold the Lamb of God, and strengthening the hands of those who have already believed; so that we have scarcely time for our necessary food:—it is a little taste of heaven.

"The good tidings first reached the hearts of the poor: and by the mighty power of God, they have been kept, each of them, adorning their profession. This has had a blessed effect in removing prejudices, taking away shame, and emboldening others to join them; so there is a daily addition made to us, and some of the sober, judicious, and sensible, of a higher class.

"The Lord's work is carried on in the sweetest and most powerful manner. The dear souls draw nigh to the Saviour, without fear or doubting; and as freely confess his goodness to them without shame. In general, men and their wives are called: some, almost together—others, at short intervals; two or three exceptions, that yet bitterly persecute and oppose: but the great wonders that have been wrought make us expect greater things. Great faith is given to these dear people! Surely, this is as in ancient days; as we have heard, so have we seen.

"One of the workmen that were employed at the chapel, far gone in a consumption, sent for me soon after I came. I found him in the sweetest, calm, peaceable, loving, submissive frame of soul; more like a disembodied spirit, than a suffering mortal.—This blessed power is the effect of his cleaving closely to his Saviour. He is taught divinely of the blessed Spirit to know nothing but Jesus! I talk to him of nothing else, I am satisfied that is sufficient.

"I bless the name of God, for dying witnesses, as well as living. O praise, praise the Lord! He is worthy! He is worthy! That ever He should visit this dark corner of the land with the light of his glorious gospel. Join me, my beloved sisters, in praying it may be sent to other places. O, how many in this our native land are yet in the shadow of death!

"At present, this appears to me the most delightful situation on earth; my cup runs over!

> 'Tis heaven to rest in God's embrace;
> And no where else but there!'

I could end my days here, if it were the will of God;

or if it were his blessed will, leave it the next moment, to return no more. How good, how right, and, I can through grace add, how sweet to my soul is his will."

Her soul seemed wedded to this happy place, indeed. She says in one letter—"If I have a request to make concerning this world, it is for my dear husband and self, to be permitted by the Lord, to resort sometimes to this sweet retirement—from business, from bustle." In another letter, she thus expresses herself:—"I feel a desire, if it be the will of God, that my dear Thomas and I, may be permitted to reside much here. Not a word is ever spoken here about parties or opinions; no crying up or crying down any of the Lord's servants, but still it is the right one that comes: the finest is the last, and he that stays the longest with them." The happy effects of this impartial loving spirit were "a constant growth in every grace of the Spirit of God, and increase in simplicity and godly sincerity;" as may be seen by the following account of their blessed state, given in a letter to Miss J——n, in May, 1783:—

"My beloved sister,

"Grace, mercy and peace be ever with you; my heart feels most tenderly for you wherever I am. Great has been the goodness of God to me, the unworthiest of creatures. Most delightfully did my time glide away with the dear Christians at Tisbury, that garden inclosed by divine grace. A heavenly fragrancy is upon them; the all-glorious Im-

manuel is with them; his stately goings are seen, and those precious souls are reflecting his glory.

"The communion and fellowship I have with them, is in a higher degree, of a purer nature; more spiritual, more pleasing kind, than I have enjoyed with any body of the people before. It is such as I enjoy with particular persons, and with you, my dear sister, in an especial manner. And it is their simplicity and godly sincerity, makes it so sweet. Their hearts are right with mine; with united hearts, with one accord we say, 'All that the Lord our God, would have us believe, or do, we pray him to teach and strengthen us to conform to.' They object to no truth; they wish to be strengthened in all holy practices; they grow marvellously in knowledge and in love.

"Would you think it, my dear sister; can you believe me? Here are some of the most enriched souls that I know! Oh, the power, the wisdom, the goodness of the Lord, it is wonderfully displayed here! He must, he shall have all the glory!

"If you can come and join us at the anniversary of opening the chapel, it will be to the increase of our happiness; or if you can come after it; but if neither, give glory to God on our behalf! You know the nature of Christ's kingdom too well, to think we have any thing to display, any thing to boast of, or glory in, but God alone and the riches of his grace. But these dear people's hearts are so devoted, divinely illuminated, and made willing, wise and humble, teachable and thankful, that I cannot but speak of the Lord's goodness to them.

"Oh, that this blessed spirit may circulate through the whole church, every where, in every denomination, through the whole heart of every individual that names the name of Christ! May there be an universal departing from all evil: O my dear sister, 'What evil spirits are lurking under a profession of the gospel, in many christian societies, you and I are too well acquainted with."

While she was thus employed, she evidently appeared to her friends to be declining in her health, notwithstanding her spirits suffered no abatement. Her all-supporting, all-merciful Creator and Redeemer, having tried her in the various exercises she had gone through, from professors and profane, and finding her faithful to the light and grace given from above, and ripening apace for glory, graciously commanded the harbinger of death, to begin to cut the thread of her mortal life, and set her free from the prison of the body, that her soul might enjoy the liberty and felicity of the just made perfect, by causing the humours to crowd themselves into her right breast, and form an imposthume; which occasioned a sudden shooting and momentary acute pain. Some days after, it returning again in the same manner, she was led to examine the part, and found a tumour almost as big as a pigeon's egg, and felt a presentiment, that it would prove a cancer, and be the means of her speedier removal to glory.

Though she felt no terror at the thoughts of death, and found her will submissive to the will of God, yet she was constrained to say, with the apostle, 'I am in a strait betwixt two,' whether to live, to the glory

of God and the good of his church below, or 'to be dissolved and be with Christ, which is far better!' For she truly loved the militant church, as she expresses herself in a letter to a friend, and was made to wish to spend and be spent a little longer on earth, for their sakes, if the Lord should see good: Yet, knowing in whom she had believed, and to whom she had committed the keeping of her soul, and that he would restore it to God and glory, at the day of her departure; she felt a perfect resignation to his will, and intended to leave the matter entirely with him. She would have avoided even the advice of the faculty, had not Mr. Turner, fearing the loss of so valuable a wife, insisted on her consulting some of the most eminent amongst them. And she, being always ready to oblige him, more particularly out of tenderness to his feelings in this case, complied; and upon examination it was proved a cancer. This did not in the least daunt her Christ-like spirit: but rather made her more earnest to fill up the remainder of her days below entirely in the service of precious souls. She therefore withdrew as much as possible from worldly business in order to spend and be spent wholly for God.

As the knowledge of her cancerous complaint was diffused, receipts were sent to her from all quarters, and generally were accompanied with assurances of their utility. Several friends took journeys to inforce their prescriptions, which they thought infallible, by arguments founded on her duty to her husband, her family, and the church of God, to which in so many places she was a nursing mother. But

they only distressed her generous mind; she finding herself under a necessity to refuse the use of one and all.

The plain path of duty, pointed out to her from the first discovery of the disorder, was, to comply with the request of her husband, and leave the event to God.

To her surgeon and physician, she was properly free to communicate the various changes of her constitution, and the progressive advances of the cancer; but to the inquiry of friends in general, replied, in a very familiar way, that 'she had as much ease or pain, as her heavenly Father saw fit for her.' She saw it her duty, and obtained by prayer, fortitude sufficient for it; to suffer in patient silence: and when her husband or a friend present would say to her, 'I fear you are in a great deal of pain;' she would answer, 'A little, not too much.'

Thus she writes on the occasion to Mr. Turner, October 1783.

"I praise God, who preserved my beloved husband: My heart felt much at leaving you exposed to so much danger. After I parted from you, I greatly regretted I had not followed the chaise a mile or two, to see how you went on: but we must walk by faith and not by sight.

"I was enabled to commend you to the Almighty, considering, danger and safety is as he permits, and as is his blessed will: so here is fresh cause for a song of praise.

"I have had very little pain in my breast since: beg you will not have the least apprehension, for the

Lord has given me to trust in him as my physician; and O! how able, how willing is he to help: It is better to trust in him, than in men or means: Faith is his gift: Glory be to his adorable majesty, he has been pleased to give it me, vile as I am, and weak as I am: I can trust in him with the greatest confidence and without fear: I am in good health of body, and happy in my soul; no evil occurrence is permitted to happen."

In the same spirit of resignation she writes to Miss E. J——n, Nov. 17, 1783; after consulting a surgeon and finding it to be a confirmed cancer:—

"O what am I, or what is my father's house, that I should be so blest, with blessings of the upper and nether springs: The love of my dear Saviour, and the love of his dear people, is so manifested to my soul, that it changes my present state here upon earth, into a little epitome, likeness to, yea, a degree of heaven.

"Thank you my dearest sister, for your sweet affectionate letter; it was a delightful cordial to me! I do pray, from my heart, that the will of the Lord may be done in me, and that my present affliction may be sanctified: and, I bless his name I feel it is: This world does lessen in my sight, I do die daily to things present.

"I know there is no evil but sin; nothing that I should fear but that: yet, my beloved sister, my nature shrinks and recoils at the thoughts of extraction: about which, as my friends are so numerous, you may guess I have an abundance of kind, well-meant loving advice: I make a point never to ask

opinions, or to inquire after symptoms of those who have had cancers. At present, knowledge of this kind might be hurtful, and could not be useful: as it is not a case that I can help myself in, otherwise than by strictly observing and adhering to the advice of my physician, and looking up to my God for a blessing: But, as I was saying, until this morning, my nature dreaded the pain of extraction; for my dear husband is now much discouraged, from what one and another says to him; that, unless he can give me up to die a most frightful painful death, and that perhaps soon, it must be extracted: You see, my dear, it is his tenderness: and the call is very clear to me, to give myself up with the most dutiful subjection, to his and Mr. C——n's advice.

"This morning, whether sleeping or waking, I am not certain; but, 'I had such a sight and sense of my dear Saviour's sufferings, and the pain that he felt, when his tender, delicate feet and hands were nailed to the cross, with rough, rusty, large nails driven through them, as if he were unfeeling wood, by cruel malicious enemies; and all this for me, to make me happy, to save me even from fear: as I cannot express!' He bids me take no thought, be careful for nothing; promises strength according to my day, that his grace shall be sufficient for me; so that I am filled with heavenly peace! Farewell."

On the Christmas following she was seized with a violent fever. Her life was thought to be in great danger: and from the different courses it took, the hopes and fears of her family and friends were in constant exercise.

Prayer was made without ceasing, it was by many the prayer of faith; and, according to their hope and expectation, it availed: For my own part, I never was so drawn out to pray for any one's life before: I did not, till then, feel liberty to desire that my christian friends should be kept in the body's prison, longer than the Lord should in general see good: But on this occasion, I had such precedents from scripture brought to my mind, of the Lord's putting such cries in the hearts of his people, with a view to answer them; that I was emboldened to wrestle with him, like Jacob of old, and to say, I would not let him go without a token for good: At the same time I felt as strong desires, that the prolonging her days below, might be to the full and complete purification of her soul, and that she might be made perfectly and completely whole; and be brought into all the heights and depths, of light, life, love and purity, that it was possible for saints to enjoy in the body.

After this fever a pleurisy seized her, in which few of her friends expected her life; yet were they still led to wrestle with the Lord for it: When brought to the mouth of the grave, she had a conviction, and spake it very unreservedly, that it was not a sickness unto death, by a verse from scripture sent home to her heart with a powerful impression, that "she should yet live to be further useful to the church, ministers, and people of God."

She was kept in such sweet peace, all the time of her illness, with her mind unremittingly stayed on the promises of God, that it was most animating and

delightful to see her! And there was such a constant sweet solemnity upon her spirit, and so much of the presence of God, felt in her sick chamber, that it was like being in the holy of holies; and brought these lines of Dr. Young frequently to my mind—

> "The sick-bed of the just is privileged,
> Beyond the common walk of virtuous life;
> Just in the verge of heaven!"

The profane, if he entered the chamber, could not but draw near with awe! No conversation but what was truly spiritual, was carried on there—indeed, no one spake, but herself, more than what was absolutely necessary: So watchful and attentive were an affectionate nurse and assistants to our dear friend, that the motion of the head, or hand, commanded every thing; by this means every degree of renewed strength was preserved.

Would it not be well, if this conduct in treating the sick were universally adopted? For notwithstanding Mrs. Turner wished to see every christian friend, of every denomination, who was desirous of being admitted to her; yet they were silent in her presence, unless called to speak of spiritual things, to read or pray by her; and only shewed their love by attending to the gracious words that flowed from her lips, full of love to God, and to his people: And as a divine influence accompanied all she said, at that time; so she had strength given her from on high, sometimes, to speak for ten minutes together, without weariness to her weak frame, while unprofitable talk would make her just ready to faint: And when,

fearful of exhausting her own strength, she desired a friend to improve a long and sacred silence, by reading aloud some portion of scripture; there was generally such an unction of the Spirit of God resting on both speaker and hearers, as is easier felt than described.

This visitation held two months: at the expiration of which time, she was so far restored, as to be capable of seeing company and taking a little air. Her first visit was to her best friend: In his house, and in the presence of all his people, she paid the vows she had made, and bore testimony that God is love, even when he most afflicts his people.

As soon as her strength would permit, she visited her beloved Tisbury; and began to think of means by which she might introduce the gospel into the adjacent towns and villages. Her friends most cordially congratulated her on her recovery: but she gave them to understand, from the rapid progress the cancer was now making, that she should be an inhabitant of this world but a little while longer, and therefore was desirous to keep eternity in view, to be as much disengaged from temporal concerns as possible, and wholly to devote the residue of her days to the Lord: She spent the most of her time at Tisbury, from whence she writes as follows to Mr. Turner:—

"I hope my beloved reached home, and found all well. May every blessing, spiritual and temporal, be increased and multiplied to thy dear self, and family! Mayest thou be abundantly blest for lending me to the Lord! And may I ever consider the vows

that are upon me; the sacredness of my obligations; and be more and more devoted to his service! I am not my own; am bought with a price, most precious and invaluable.

"When you and your two companions left me, yesterday, I felt myself bereaved of my greatest earthly good: but went to my adorable, all-sufficient God, begged him to take care of and bless you both, and make up your loss to me; and he has, he does; I feel you intimately near: I love you more dearly, I enjoy you more than ever; have much delight in praying for—thou best, kindest, tenderest of husbands.

"But I forget that if I do not talk a little about my body, thy affectionate heart will feel and fear something bad: I enjoy great ease; have had an exceeding good night, more sleep than common.

"Saturday—Another good night to be thankful for, and a well-day: my breast is remarkably easy: almost the whole day in the garden. I thank God, for the good tidings of your letter: My dearly beloved in the Lord, be of good cheer: we shall, even in time, be blest together more than we have ever yet been! My late useful necessary afflictions, are only to teach and instruct me. Blessed be the Lord, I feel them for my good: Forgive, my beloved, forgive thy poor penitent wife, for so often chiding, contradicting, and disobeying thee, not because there was occasion for it, but because, it crossed and thwarted my self-will.

"I believe the complaint in my breast will be still useful, never dreadful. You may justly say, 'it appears not the more frightful to me as it increases, but

less and less so': Do not, my beloved, have an anxious thought about me; I know I am interested in such blessed promises of an Almighty Saviour, that 'I cannot fear any thing, but sin:'" In another letter to the same she writes thus:—

"I have had a good night; am much refreshed by sleep; made a good breakfast; and have had but little pain in my breast. Have had a new convert to converse with this morning, a very precious woman; and have heard of another.

"Poor Jenny B——'s window by her bedside is so shattered, that the snow beats in upon her bolster; the wind blowing away the bits of paper and rags, and she has taken a violent cold. There must be a new window-frame for this family of heaven, over whom we have the honor and happiness to be made stewards! Mr. W—— and daughter, and Jenny and B—— likewise, as they are not able to pay any rent, and thou art apt to be unbelieving, I sent thee a promissory-note to pay their rent.

It is not the note of a common man, it is not the note of a king, that may grow poor, witness, the Babylonian monarch; but of the Almighty, Everlasting, Ever-faithful Jehovah, spoken by his Spirit in man, 'He that hath pity on the poor, lendeth to to the Lord; and behold, whatsoever he doth, it shall be repaid him again!' You will find it in the Proverbs by the help of the concordance."

In another letter she speaks thus:

"My dear Thomas,

"With gratitude to God! I can assure you, my

health of body increases very much, since the weather has been warmer. The catching of my breath is much abated, almost gone; and the inward soreness I have felt since my illness, is removing apace. It is astonishing to me, how much my health has improved these two days, it appears to myself almost miraculous! My breast, I do think, is better, as my health increases, my strength returns."

And it was wonderful to see, that so soon after such an illness, and with an increasing confirmed cancer in her breast, she should be enabled to exert herself so much in the cause of God as she did; by talking, writing to, and instructing, by precept and example, many new and old professors of the gospel; and, walking, sometimes, five or six miles on a day for their benefit.

She was enabled likewise to celebrate another anniversary of opening the chapel at Tisbury: and to exert herself, as usual, to the glory of God, and the profit, instruction, and comfort of her visitants on the occasion. June 1784, she writes to me thus:—

"My beloved sister,

"I wrote to you from hence a few weeks ago, acquainting you with the great ease of body and peace of mind, our adorable God is pleased to bless me with; and which, I must add, he is pleased to continue and increase! May I be devoted to his divine will, to his blessed delightful service, as much as a human creature can! His will, his law, is my delight.

" Great peace I am favored with, and nothing but sin doth offend me: 'The place of my defence is, the munition of rocks: my bread is given me, my water is sure!' Fear does not come nigh me: unless it be the fear of sinning against my ever-blessed and adorable God, who is pleased to call a worm, his friend, to call himself my God, my husband, brother, father: I have nothing to do on earth, but to glorify him for his great goodness! I only desire to live, that I may live to him; or move, but to his praise: 'for me to live is Christ, to die is gain."

Speaking of an illness with which I was afflicted at that time, she says, " My dear sister, you well know, 'whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth.' The beloved Son, our adorable Saviour, how did he suffer, how was he afflicted: What did he feel, that our afflictions might be sanctified, made salutary to our souls! Cleave to him, my sister, open your whole heart to him! He invites you; he will bless you yet more and more! He will bless the house of Israel, he will bless the house of Aaron! Dear Mr. Sloper preached from these words, in the afternoon of the anniversary: Mr. Parsons senior, from Bath, in the morning, on 'the great trumpets being blown at the jubilee:' and Mr. Clark, in the evening, from, 'I am the way."

" We had eleven dear ambassadors of Christ; and the Rev. Mr. C——s came in the evening, and made the number twelve. It was a glorious, most delightful day, the sweetest anniversary! What, I must not say where, will my next be? Whether it be on

earth, or in heaven, I shall be glad to have my dear friends with me."

The Lord's day following this festival, of keeping the anniversary of opening the chapel at Tisbury, two of the ministers remaining with her, she saw an opportunity put into her hand, of carrying the gospel to Hindon; and thus she speaks of it in the same letter:—

"The Rev. Mr. C——s and Mr. Surman, remained here the succeeding Lord's day. As we had a spare minister, we likewise had power given us, in the name and strength of Jesus, to carry the precious gospel to Hindon, notorious Hindon, wicked to a proverb! Previous to it, we sent a messenger to inform the people, that a clergyman would come on the ensuing sabbath, at any time of the day that would not interfere with the church service, and at any place they should appoint. Many said, yea all she spoke to, 'they were glad of it!' One woman said 'She hoped it would do her wicked sons good, as it had Henry Snook,' with whom one of them worked, and of whom she remarked, that 'though he was once so wicked, yet now, there was not a profane word dropt from his lips!' The time appointed was, half after one, we likewise published it at our Saturday-evening's meeting here.

"I had a chaise from Hindon to carry the Rev. Mr. C——s, myself and maid: and we were accompanied by two brethren on horseback, and a numerous train of friends from hence. Some, that were only well-wishers to us, said, 'they would go to take our parts:' for knowing Hindon to be such an aban-

doned wicked place, the people here thought we should be cruelly treated.

" But the quietness and the attention of the people was astonishing, notwithstanding the preaching was in the open street! Their number, almost the whole town, assembled in about five minutes! Their good behaviour; the soft and sweet spirit of the heavenly messenger; and the tenderness, and heavenly love, conveyed in his message of the prodigal son; and his insisting more particularly on the father's readiness to receive him; the calmness of my own spirit, were beyond description delightful! as well as the divinely powerful prayers, and harmonious singing! Praise the Lord my dear friend, all glory belongs to him.

" Yesterday, my soul was almost enraptured, with the account of several that wept, and could not sleep at night: not only weak women, as the world phrase it, but stout-hearted men; it is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.

" Betty Sanders, fearing your illness might be unto death, wished me to engage ministers for A——n; but it must be left to the head of the church, whose goings shall be seen in the sanctuary: who walks amidst his golden candlesticks, and 'sends by whom he will send.' Very few ministers have put their names for Tisbury: but as my trust is in the Lord, I have no more fear, than I should if the book were filled with names! It is all known to the great director, and his book of providence must be read by us."

I mention this latter part of her letter, to preserve her remark; which is very weighty, and shews the

strength of her confidence. Were that confidence always reposed in God by his creatures, and his providence more minutely observed, with a design to have our faith strengthened in his promises, we should escape much unnecessary perplexity, and our peace, like a river, would flow uninterruptedly! For want of this confidence, we know, by experience, that "fear which hath torment."

Notwithstanding Mrs. Turner's occasional intervals of ease, and such refreshments as she speaks of in her letters, her disorder was insensibly increasing; nor was she longer able to conceal its progress from her most dearly beloved relative, but was obliged to confess that it did not appear to amend; as in the following letter, dated, May the 3d, 1784:—

"As it would make my beloved husband happy, I wish I could say, I was confident my breast was better; but at times, think it is, and sometimes, that it is not." In another letter to him, she says,—"Oh my dear, it is better to trust in the Lord, than to put any confidence in man; what can man do without the divine blessing? and that can do every thing without the help of man.

"Give me up to God: not only leave me, but give me to be employed in any thing, and done with as he pleases; and you will taste the sweetest felicity. How can I ask for health and strength, but to use it to his glory; and now, I can, I do, humbly tell him, 'I cannot serve him, unless he is pleased to strengthen me.'"

Mr. Turner's mother being seized with the small-pox, was to this most affectionate and best of wives,

a call in providence to return to Trowbridge. A servant was infected with the same disorder; these were objects of close attention to her. The exertions she used, and the fatigues she underwent, so overcame her weak decaying frame, that she was obliged to return again to Tisbury, for a little relaxation and change of air. But at the same time, felt a desire to be a sharer in her husband's toils. Thus she expresses herself on the occasion:—

"I want to assist you in the toils of life, my beloved, and to share your fatigues. I have had an idea this morning, of your many quick-moving wheels, to keep me, a larger, slower one, moving at this distance. Great fatigues, great weight, great care fall upon you all; each member of the family that faithfully discharges his trust, may God bless with every token of his special favour. I am bound to love and pray 'for you, which I constantly do.'" In another letter she writes thus:—

"My breast has been, for some days, uncommonly easy; and I never had such a degree of pain as to render my situation uncomfortable.

"I am still the most favoured of creatures, and at this time feel myself the most unprofitable; can do so little for the glory of my God, and that I do, I do so ill, I am the most ignorant, awkward, foolish child; have deep, humbling views of myself, but most exalted ones of my adorable God. His goodness to me is inexpressible.

"The dear people here are still greatly blessed; the work widens and deepens in many hearts, and I am

much blest with them, notwithstanding their trials and temptations.

"My dear nieces, Eliza and Frances C——k will give you a journal, so I forbear; but I must tell you 'they are the sweetest, simplest, most devoted souls I ever knew, of their age: they shame me, whilst I am thankful for them.' I desire to follow them, as they follow Christ. Not once have they spoken the least offensive word; their Christian wisdom and humility is admirable, and their charity. May you, my beloved, enjoy them as I have, adieu. Come soon as you can and visit

Your ever loving

JOANNA TURNER."

Her disorder began now to make a rapid progress, and her strength to decline apace. Knowing the strength of Mr. Turner's affection, and the tenderness of his disposition, she chose to conceal it as long as possible from him; yet to a bosom friend, whom she knew to be strong in the Lord, and able to bear losses with fortitude, she speaks freely on her case. In a letter to her most valuable, and greatly beloved companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, Miss J——n, she writes thus, just before she made her last visit to Tisbury:

"My beloved Sister,

"My dear husband acquainted you that we reached home safe. I bore the journey as well as I could expect. Blessed be the Lord, I am comfortably easy this day; have had considerable pains since

I left you, but think I am mending again, having lost my fever and regained my appetite, in a great measure.

"Thus far I wrote, intending to send by Vale on Friday, but was prevented by necessary business.—Monday morning.

"My maid was yesterday enabled, for the first time since the small pox, to visit the Lord's house at the two o'clock meeting, to return her public thanks; nor does she appear to have taken cold.

"Yesterday, I reflected much on our heavenly Father's gracious dealings with us, in the afflictive dispensations of his providence. Very few of his own most blessed days, have our whole family attended at his house, since the commencement of the year 1784. Before this date, since my dear husband's union with me, we and our household have had almost constant opportunities of worshipping together on his day, and the greatest part of them, on every other occasion; 'Bless the Lord, O our souls; and all that is within us, bless his holy name!'"

"And now, my beloved, I find my outward man growing weak, perhaps decaying. I may grow stronger, but I know I must leave the dear militant church, to which I am most sincerely and affectionately united, with a little degree of heavenly union. I feel no shyness, no straitness, to any of those blessed souls, who are led by the spirit, according to the divine word; I am one with them, as they are one with my adorable Lord.

"I feel an inexpresssible union already, with the saints in glory; and equally the same to those, known

or unknown, in the body. Their nearness to my Lord, their likeness to him, seems the strongest tie, the most powerful attractive to me; as well to those on earth, as to those in heaven.

"My adorable Lord blesses me more than ever. I have, for some years, been longing to enjoy him, and to be more weaned from earth; not to grow discontented, nor unhappy: not pining after, nor even desiring heaven, contrary to his blessed will.

"O how good he is in himself to me, at times! He is love: most loving to me in all his dealings. My soul has, for these twenty years, adored him as a God of love; tasted the constant sweetness of being accepted in the beloved: and now the best wine runs at last, my cup runs over. He strengthens me according to my day; so richly supplies, so sweetly supports me. He manifests himself to me in every character, in every capacity, in every time of need. I trust alone in Him; he permits me, he invites me.

"The other morning I awoke delightfully with these words, 'Call upon me in the day of trouble, and I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me!' Not once am I deprived of the means of grace, of visiting the Lord's house. Early and late meetings do I attend, through his strengthening me, without fear of harm; converse with friends as usual, and visit as much as I can.

"Never, never, I think, had any a more blessed dismission from earth; for I must tell you, my beloved sister, that my most profitable, most useful disorder, at present, increases much, both in pain

and in size. But as my adorable Lord increases my strength in proportion, it is not, nor do I believe it ever will be, hard to be borne—He will 'never leave nor forsake me!'

"On Wednesday, my dear husband purposes taking me, and our dear visiters, M——, and Miss R——t, to Tisbury. If I should find benefit from the air, I shall stay there two or three weeks; but if not, will return with them, and continue with my dear family at Trowbridge.

"Wherever I am, I shall be happy to see you.—God will support you according as you require.

"I beg you will take care of your bodily health. I see it a greater duty than ever; though I have not the least reflection to make on, nor consciousness of ever neglecting myself. It is His heavenly will; 'All is peace and harmony within.'

"Farewell, my best beloved sister. What have we enjoyed together on earth; but what is it all to what we shall enjoy together in heaven, and to all eternity?

"I am often asked the question, 'Whether we shall know one another in heaven?' and I constantly see it right to answer with the greatest readiness, yes. Grace, mercy and peace, rest constantly upon you, continually prays

"Your affectionate

"J. TURNER."

It evidently appears from this letter, as well as from the hints she occasionally dropped, and the

exceeding great spirituality of her frame, that she knew the time of her departure was at hand.

She paid her last visit to Tisbury; and in the following poem, we see what were her feelings at parting with one of the best and most beloved of husbands; notwithstanding she was made willing to submit to the loss of his company, so frequently, and for so long a time together, for the sake of being useful to precious souls.

Tisbury, Sept. 1784.

"Till crooked turnings took thee from my sight,
My much lov'd T——, I watch'd thee with delight"
Preserve him, O my God, with tenderest care;
Let man and beast thy kind protection share!
Blest comforter, descend into his breast,
And sweetly sooth his feeling heart to rest:
Inspire and animate his precious soul,
And every jar in nature, now control!
How easy this, my God, for thee to do;
Give but thyself, and all things we let go
In sweet submission to thy sacred will;
Yet thy dear gifts we love for thy sake still!
We love each other, and shall ever love;
'Tis God's command, and sure he must approve!
O favor'd creatures we, to be so blest,
On earth to have so large a share of rest;
Blest in each other, and by God carest!
Let us, my love, in strict obedience live,
And our whole selves to our dear Jesus give,
To save, to use, to order as he please!
This is the happy way to live in ease.
By blest experience, this I know full well,
And with delight, my blest experience tell,
Myself the happiest mortal now on earth,
An heir of glory, by my heavenly birth,
And having Christ, with him, I all possess;

Am happy, rich and full, he doth so bless!
Sure, in a goodly place my lines are cast:
My cup runs o'er; of heavenly joys I taste!
So much of heaven, while here, vouchsaf'd to me,
Think you, my dear, I shall such glory see
When dull mortality is chas'd away,
And my clogg'd spirit parted from its clay,
As those whose life to suffering was a prey?
The blessed, joyful, holy change to me
Will be amazing only in degree!
If I conceive aright, the suffering throng,
Will more enjoy, and sing a loftier song!
None, more than I, have greater cause to praise,
My busting heart shall Ebenezers raise!
Where'er I sit, where'er I rove abroad,
I ever find a present smiling God!
Jesus, Immanuel, Mediator, near,
God reconciled, these names forbid my fear.
Heav'n, earth, is mine! O how a worm can boast!
Nor fear attacks from a whole hellish host,
While I on Jesus still alone rely,
Obey my God, and sinful self deny!"

The following letter to Mr. Turner, will describe a little of that sweet submission to, and cheerful reliance on, the will of Providence: with which she was enabled to resign up herself, and her dear spiritual nursery at Tisbury, into the hands of her divine master, just before she took her leave of her beloved charge:—

"Thank you, my dear, dear love, for all your care of, all your kindness to, thy poor unworthy, but affectionate wife.

"I rejoice that the gospel greatly flourishes in these parts! Great is the peace, the privileges, we enjoy! Three from Ebsbourn, one of them a blessed

shepherd, after he had folded his flock, dressed himself and came, with his two companions, to our evening preaching on Saturday, as he could have no preaching the next day, and returned home after it.

"The zeal, the love, the simplicity, and humility of the dear people there, and here, and of the new converts at Hindon, are most pleasing! With pleasure I dwell among them; with delight shall leave them in such a soul-prospering state, and in such hands, as my blessed and adorable Lord's, who 'doth all things well.'

"Praised be his name, he doth still bless me with much sweet ease; and, sometimes, a little pain; but so sweetened with his loving presence and divine support, that my affliction seems the lightest, the sweetest of any I know! Glory, be to Father, Son, and Spirit, for ever and ever."

Thus did the Lord continue to bless her labours at Tisbury, to the last moment of her dwelling among them. I was with her the Christmas after the chapel was opened, and was made truly glad, in seeing the grace of God prevail over the most self-righteous and boasting pharisees, as over the most loose and abandoned characters, who had no reputation in the world to preserve. And many that were particularly esteemed among their neighbours, for their wisdom and prudence, and attendance on their church and sacrament, were constrained to be accounted fools for Christ's sake, the elderly and sober men, as well as women and children.

One young girl, died happy in the faith of Christ,

in less than a year after; and exhorted all her friends and relations to be acquainted with, and to cleave closely to Christ: as the following extract of a letter to me from my dear deceased friend, will testify:—

"Last Friday evening, dear Betty M——was buried at Tisbury: she died in the most triumphant manner! said, 'She had never so much comfort in her life: that if she had all that earth could afford in one hand, and death in the other, she would let all go, to embrace death;' exhorted all about her, and sent the most solemn message to me! Who am I, to be thus highly favoured, thus loved by his dear people."

Another, who had been a backslider in grace, was brought back again; and there was great hope in his death.

Women, opened their mouths sweetly in prayer-meeting: and a boy, told his father, after hearing a minister preach on the duty of family-prayer, that if his father did not pray in the family, he must! And the boy prayed, both in the family and church, occasionally, from that time: and early in the year 1785, in the sixteenth year of his age, after being under the tuition of a worthy minister a few months only, was called forth to preach the gospel; and goes on exercising his gift, to the satisfaction and edification of many serious congregations, though but eighteen.

Mrs. Turner remarked, and it is the remark of the most spiritual, 'that those who keep closest to the private meetings, religious conversation, and prayer, were by far the most prosperous in their

souls;' though these meetings are now so lightly esteemed by many flaming professors.

Before she left this favoured spot, she invited all her sisters in the Lord, to drink tea and spend an afternoon with her: and showing them the rapid progress the cancer was making in her breast, she endeavoured to comfort their hearts, and encourage them to put their trust in the Lord for help, when their creature comforts failed, by relating to them, the experience she had of his tender care and providential dealings towards her, from the womb to the present moment. And when I read a copy of these memoirs to them, I had the satisfaction of finding every circumstance related by me, to be the same they had so recently received, from her own lips.

After she had warned every one to flee from sin, holding up Jesus as the refuge to flee unto, and exhorted the blessed society of brethren and sisters, to cleave unto the Lord and to one another, she returned to Trowbridge; to prepare for and keep the fourteenth anniversary, in commemoration of the goodness of God to the society of Christians in that place, of which she had been so useful and valuable a member.

Divine influence, as usual, crowned the day: and though Mrs. Turner's speech and appearance were evidently altered, yet she manifested much cheerfulness: attended worship twice, and spake of the loving kindness of the Lord with usual confidence and earnestness. Every one was glad to give to, and receive from her, a token of love and esteem: some, in particular, were much affected with the idea, that

she would not make one in the next annual assembly. Her remarks were pertinent to every hint of that nature; and among other things, she said, 'It was immaterial, whether she worshipped in the church-militant, or triumphant."

She made a point of it to complain as little as possible; and not being able to give her friends the information they wished to receive, she continued to be, what from the commencement of her disorder she had been, an example of suffering affliction, and of patience; therefore, when any inquired after her health, she would say, 'All is well."

Very soon after the anniversary she took to her room; and a few days after, to her bed. The time now drew near that she must die; but 'mark the perfect, and behold the upright!' We have traced her through life; let us view her in death. She discovered more of submission than of rapture.

These are some of the sayings which dropped from her lips:—

"I have had a pleasing passage through life, and have cast anchor" whether prevented from finishing the sentence, we cannot tell: but we presume she would have added, 'on Christ Jesus.'

When she was asked, 'If she was happy?' she replied, 'I am not in rapture; but I enjoy constant peace!' She was much affected with the prayers and tears of her surrounding friends on earth, and, by way of apology, said, 'My passions are touched, feeling for those I love!' On another occasion, she said, 'Religion is love, and I do love my God; yet, I wish I could love him more."

Addressing herself to Mr. Turner, she said, 'Take care of your health, my love, and cleave unto the Lord!' And to Mr. Clark, her pastor, she said, 'I commend to you the cause of Christ; and wish you to remember Tisbury: you know, I am nothing; that, is my funeral-text: I have constantly felt myself to be, nothing in myself: my meaning is, to give 'All the glory to God!' He, perceiving that her time on earth could not be long, discoursed on death: She said, 'She considered death as a duty she owed to God, as his command; and would desire to go through it, as every other duty, in obedience to his will.' Being asked, therefore, 'If she wished to die?' She answered, 'No: she did not prefer death; for she had no reason to be weary of her kind friends on earth, from whom she had experienced so much kindness and affection; yet, she would not desire to choose life or death; but, to submit to the Lord, one thing that reconciles me to the grave is,' said she, 'That our dear Saviour lay there!' The physician observing that 'he expected to have found her weaker;' she said, 'My spirits are good, doctor, I am not afraid to die."

The morning before she died, she exerted herself with a holy intrepidity. Being asked, 'If she wanted any thing?' she answered, 'Having him, I possess all things, I am clasped in his embrace!' By an answer so remote from the question designed, the frame of soul she was in, may be conceived of; she added, 'They might give her what they pleased."

To a certain friend, she said; 'O, cleave to the dear Saviour, and let the world be under your feet!'

When asked to take nourishment, she said, 'I have bread to eat, that the world knows nothing of!' After a long silence, in which they thought she had been asleep, she clasped her hands together, saying, in an ecstacy, 'O! the majesty; the beauty; the excellence; the glory; the magnificence! shall I face to face, see my dear crucified Saviour.'

At another time, she said; 'I have had a longing desire for holiness, to be like my dear Saviour; but have nothing to trust to, but what he hath done and suffered for me!' To another Christian friend, she said, 'The precept is sweet, and the promise is sweet; but above all, the promiser: I have the promiser.'

One of her female friends, by desire, was permitted to have an interview of a few minutes with her, but for no longer time, on account of her extreme weakness. On asking how she did, she said, 'It is well with me: I have peace: And the Lord bless you! He hath blessed you, he doth bless you, he will bless you! But give up yourself entirely to the Lord Jesus! He will do every thing for you! Let not the cares of life hinder you! As the fowls came down upon Abraham's sacrifices, he drove them away: so do you, drive them away."

A little before she died, two of the shop-servants came to the bed-side, to take leave of the best of mistresses, to whom she said, 'God bless you! open your mouths wide, and he will fill them." She was too weak to say more! She desired to be lifted up in the bed: then kissed her servants and friends who were about her, and thanked them for all their kind

services! She then said, 'By the grace of God, I am what I am, glory be to God."

Her most nearly beloved female friend was moved to pray with her; at the close of which she said, 'Amen, let me kiss you!' which having done she went into a dose; in which she lay a few hours, and expired, without a groan or sigh, on Christmas eve, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-four; aged fifty-two.

The same beloved female friend, who was with her at the time of her decease, speaks thus of it in a letter to the compiler of these memoirs:—

Bristol, Jan. 28, 1785.

"I doubt not but this labour of love will be greatly blessed to my dear sister's soul; as the reviewing my dear sister Turner's letters has been to me; which I could not collect to send by my cousin. Our correspondence has been of such a standing, that my letters alone will make a volume: however, some of them, hope soon to send by way of Trowbridge to you.

"All I read, hear, or think of her, greatly endears her to me; and makes me humbly pray for 'like precious faith' with hers. The spirit she was in through her whole illness, spake more than all or any words could do.' All I can say of it is, 'It was perfect peace, perfect patience, perfect love; there never appeared a moment's intermission, nor one instance of defect."

Another spiritual friend of the established church, testified, 'He received such a divine anointing from

the Lord in company with her, a few days before she died, that he felt the blessing on his soul, for a whole fortnight: such a sweet union and communion between their spirits, as he had not words to express! And something of this kind, every spiritual person could say, who had been blest with her truly divine conversation.

Her characteristic, according to the testimony of a very spiritual clergyman, was, 'She was clad with the garment of praise, and was of a quick understanding in the fear of the Lord."

All truly spiritual people, of every name or persuasion, rank or degree among men, felt generally, that unction of the Holy One in her company and conversation, that was seldom to be met with in christians of narrow views and party spirits, bigotted to their own particular opinions in non-essential points. For she used to say, 'There was an excellence peculiar to every denomination of spiritual people, worth imitating: and thus sucking honey from every flower, she became herself such a storehouse of spiritual sweets, from whence all, that would hearken to her wisdom, might receive plentifully the precious soul-nourishing food of gospel milk and honey: insomuch that many came miles to hear her wisdom, and could say, with the queen of Sheba concerning Solomon, that 'the half had not been told them.'

She was highly esteemed and honoured by ministers of every persuasion: some of whom are not backward to acknowledge, that by her they learned the way of God more perfectly. And she highly

esteemed them in love for their work's sake, honouring them as the ambassadors of Christ; and her house and purse were ever open to supply their wants. If they were in straitened circumstances, whether spiritual or temporal, and she knew it, she esteemed it her privilege to do all in her power to relieve them; by wrestling with the Lord in prayer for their spiritual relief, and opening her hand for the supply of their temporal necessities. And it is remarkable that she has been more than ordinarily impressed with a desire to impart, unsolicited, when the case of some good man has been more than ordinarily distressing.

She seldom suffered a christian, whether in a public or private capacity, to leave her company without prayer; for which her spiritual and edifying conversation was a suitable preparative. If they appeared backward to the exercise, she would press it upon them by every weighty consideration, would so enforce the word of God concerning acknowledging him in all their ways, and being willing to be accounted vile in the sight of the world, and the Michals of Israel, for God's sake, that they have been constrained to try their gift; and while in the act, they have been so helped and strengthened by her secret aspirations, that they have often rose from their knees, surprised at the liberty given them from the Lord.

The young, the old, the careless, and the formal, have been led to discover the beauty and excellence of true vital religion, by her conversation and deportment. Several gay young persons have been

melted down into tears of repentance before her, and received the most teachable disposition of soul: which she has cherished and nursed up, till they have been brought into the liberty of the gospel, and proved valuable members of society.

She used to teach her pupils to serve God, not only on Lord's days, by hearing the word, and prayer, and resting from bodily labour, but to serve him likewise all the week: in their families, by social, and in their trade and calling, by mental prayer. And soon as they had learned their duty to God and man, she exhorted them to put in practice what they knew. For 'those that were faithful to the little light and grace given,' she said, 'should yet have more light and grace, and be made rulers over many things, as the scriptures testify: but those who had itching ears, and were more fond of hearing than doing,' she compared to those the apostle speaks of, 'who are ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.'

She did not, like the pharisees, lay heavy burthens on the shoulders of others, which she did not touch with one of her fingers: for she was a remarkable pattern of honest industry in the duties of her calling; as is observable from the preceding pages.

She was one of the most affectionate, faithful, obliging and industrious wives: and not only so, but she was a spiritual friend and comforter to Mr. Turner, as may be seen by many of her papers and journals, in one of which she writes thus:

"But above all things, my dear husband, may you be enabled to be continually looking unto Jesus,

the author, the finisher of our faith ; to adore him for mercies numerous received, and to trust him for what is to come.

" O ! my dear Thomas, are all the great things God hath done for our souls, little, mean, or nothing in our esteem, and not deserving of praise ? Shall we not say, ' Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on us;' smite upon our breasts, and exclaim, ' Lord be merciful to me a sinner' because we cannot say, ' My Redeemer is mine, I know that he liveth ?' Shall we not venture at his feet, and lie as poor sinners still ? Yes ; blessed be his name, we will ! and he has promised, ' He will in no wise cast out.' "

" ' O ye of little faith, wherefore did ye doubt ?' My dearest fellow traveller, ' Let not thy heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid ! Ye believe in God, believe also in Jesus !' that ' He suffered, the just for the unjust ; for whosoever will, for all that come unto him, to ' seek and to save them that are lost,' for the vilest of the vile, the very chief of sinners ! Why not then, for Thomas and Joanna Turner ? There are none more undeserving ! but grace, how free ! mercy, how sovereign.

" God is love, my dear husband, and he is faithfulness itself ! Think you, he bids us seek his face in vain ? If it were not so, he would have told us ! Will he spurn us to hell, for lying at his dear feet the remainder of our days, which, glory be to his grace, is the desire of our souls ? It can never be, whatever Satan suggests, he is our enemy and will lie to distress you : He lies in wait to deceive poor sinners, who are convinced of sin, and desire to see Jesus.

not out of curiosity, but to venture their souls upon him alone for salvation: But such souls as these, are safe, are blessed: such shall be with Christ, where he is, to behold his glory! There, my fellow-heir, shall we be: We, that are owned, called, and to whom the promises are made: There we shall possess boundless bliss, and everlasting hallelujahs."

"In another letter, dated Dec. 13, 1773, she exercises her poetical talents in the same spirit! to remove doubts and fears from his anxious mind.

"Why, my dear husband, why these doubts and fears;
These great complainings, all this load of cares?
Leave, leave it all, to thy dear loving Lord!
See, what is written, in his holy word,
One thing is needful: choose that better part;
Take him for thine, and give him thy whole heart!

"Then, all things shall be added which are good,
Health, wisdom, raiment, and thy daily food:
Light, life, and strength, from him thou shalt receive:
'Tis truth my dear: O that thou didst believe!
Look not to self: no strength from thence can flow
Jesus alone, all blessings can bestow.
O love him! love him with thy noblest pow'rs!
Would he thus bless us, if he were not ours?
Bow, bow before him, in the lowest dust!
Almighty Jesus: holy, good, and just;
Thee we adore, for helping hitherto:
And have thy promise that thou'lt bring us thro'
This howling wilderness; this place of tears!
O Saviour! pardon all our guilty fears;
Wash the misgivings of our hearts away,
And let thy love appear, as bright as day!

"I see thy heart, my blessed dearest Lord,
Love to poor sinners: Oh! the cheering word!
Can love withhold what is for real good?
Dear Thomas, what a truth: How understood;

Thou know'st it well; art taught it from above
To bear my faults; yet constantly to love!
" O! that my heart a grateful song could raise,
Taste the stream sweet; but give the fountain praise:
" But to my duty, in that state of life
In which I'm plac'd: Farewell!
" Thy loving wife,
" JOANNA TURNER."

In a letter to the same from Bristol she writes thus:

" Thank you, my dear husband, for your two sweet letters! My spirit, my heart is with you: and soon I shall return, by the permission of our heavenly Father, to share your labours, to sooth your cares. Thursday, by the morning coach, I intend going to Bath. I have been wonderfully blest here, and shall return to you in the fulness of the gospel: and great grace shall rest upon us according to the promise.

" Our kind dear friends, are very importunate with me to stay longer, and prevailed so far that I wrote to you to permit me, but I forgot to put the letter into the post-office. In the mean time came your sweet, plaintive letter, which I thought so like a widowed dove's, that I come, my dear husband, I come in the strength of my Jesus, setting out afresh for heaven, determined to be more his, and that will make me more

" Your dutiful, loving,
" and obedient wife,
" JOANNA TURNER."

One of her letters she begins thus:

"Thou best of husbands, most beloved of mortals; grace, mercy, and peace be with thee from God the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ! My soul was pained at parting; but that it was the will of God, sweetly reconciles me. We have had such a sacramental season.—O the dear brotherhood, how I love them! Jesus taught us to pray—'Our Father!' and shall we not say to all that know and love Him; of every name, they are ours indeed?

"I felt it divinely this day; and you, and my dear pastor, and people at Trowbridge, were all near me: for my Jesus was near, and taught me sweetly. O that I may practise what I know! O that the same mind were in me as in Him!

"The Lord is my sun and shield. He keeps and upholds me from moment to moment; and has blessed me, since I have been here, with much of his love shed abroad in my heart by the power of the Holy Ghost. He sweetly permits me to shout his praise, with my dear brethren of all denominations; blessed be his name, I think this is the sweetest visit I ever paid at Bristol."

In another letter from Bristol she writes thus:—

"I thank you, my beloved husband, for your kind letters. Glory be to God that you are well, and all the dear family! I cannot give you so good an account of my despatching business, as in my last; but I feel the sweetest union with you, my beloved, and with the rest of my dear friends at Trowbridge; separation makes not the least alteration. I am so united to the dear people here, without straitness or

distinction, that I am, I think, as happy a mortal as inhabits this city; all friends are so kind and affectionate. Who am I to be so highly favoured; surely, the Lord doth bless my going out and coming in!

"Oh, what a God of love is ours, who is constantly bestowing fresh blessings! I never before experienced such oneness with Mr. Wesley's people; nor could ever before hear their preachers with such profit."

And in another letter, she expresses her love and tenderness to her dear husband, and enlargedness of heart towards all Christians, thus:—

"I am thankful to God, that my dear husband is well. Your letter was welcome to me as water to the thirsty soul. I hope you were not much grieved at not hearing from me on Friday: I know you were disappointed. The reason was, I was too late for the post. Blessed be the Lord, all is well; and I am well, and would 'praise him from the rising of the sun to the going down of the same.' It is a blessing that you speak so kindly to me, that you miss me; and so much love to have me by your side. I am so blest with you that I never wish to leave you, but to go to my dearest Lord; or at his bidding, where it is his pleasure and for his glory. This epistle is short, hope the dear Lord will make it sweet. Lord's day, one o'clock;—Have received your letter. It is well with you: and blessed be God, it will be well forever. I think I never had a more refreshing season at Bristol. The God of love is with us; of all parties, persuasions, and denomi-

nations of spiritual people, the mountains of separation fall before our Zerubbabel.

" I am exceedingly strengthened and refreshed in my soul; and do beg my dearest Lord, to give our dear pastor, and all the brethren, large draughts of love, the loving spirit; and then, how sweetly will it flow in all meekness, patience, and long suffering! I am just come from the room, have had a very blessed season: My brother C—— W——y preached; the text, 'Lord save, we perish'—'This, was the sinner's first prayer,' he said, 'and would be, his last.' Adieu; and believe me, your ever loving, though not ever

" Obedient wife,
" JOANNA TURNER."

But notwithstanding she was so truly affectionate, tender, and obedient in her place, as a wife; yet when any mistake, or misapprehension of her husband's, was like to prevent her usefulness in the cause of God, she would exert her blessed privilege of a mother in Israel, and say, 'Hath not the Lord God commanded?' Judges iv. 6th, as will be seen by the following letter, concerning talking to a gentlewoman, in a soft persuasive way, to allure her to Christ; when, Mr. Turner thought, she was flattering the great; and should rather have been severely reproving her for living so contrary to the gospel.

" My dear husband,

" If you could understand me, you would not think I flattered souls, in sins, of any kind. But I know, from the word of God; from the light of the Spirit;

from my own experience; that Christ is our sanctification as well as justification: and it is only by believing ourselves interested in him, by being really united to him by faith, that we rise superior to sin, of any kind! 'Without him, we can do nothing!' He is 'the way, the truth, and the life;' the alone sacrifice for sin; the blessed atonement constantly to be believed in! Of him, all the prophets spake, the apostles preached, the living witnesses testify! Nothing but the sprinkling of his blood, will deliver from an evil conscience, and free us from the uneasiness that ariseth from a sense of guilt.

"Nothing but faith in Christ will overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil: Why should you then, my dear husband, object, when I point to him alone and exhort all I speak to, that feel they are sinners, to look to Christ to be saved, to look to him and be strengthened? If hereupon, faith spring up and grow, obedience likewise will proportionally grow and increase.

"No wonders can ever be wrought, of a holy kind, but in the name of the holy child Jesus! As soon may one of those green sprigs you brought from Hall's this day, grow without a root, as a soul flourish and advance in holiness, without being grafted into Christ, united to him by a lively faith.

"And must not the faithful witness speak of his willingness to save, speak of his power? Must he not constantly be described and recommended? Surely, my dear husband, I must do it, though even thou art offended, for want of understanding thy

"Poor wife,

"JOANNA TURNER."

She was, after her conversion, one of the most amiable, useful, and affectionate of friends, and relatives: as may be seen from the preceding pages, and gathered from many of her letters; extracts from which I here subjoin:

"God is love, my dear sister, I experience him so in all his dispensations! It was his love induced you to write so sweetly, so seasonably to me. My blessed heavenly Father is chastening and correcting me, in those that are near to me as my own soul. I cannot help feeling all their concerns, their situations. Every thing that belongs, that relates to them, belongs, relates to me. My soul is filled with parental affection to all the dear children, and to my newly widowed brother, and sister: Greatly as I have loved them, I never felt affection equal to this before, it is the operation of the Spirit of God.

"We are continually talking together, till our hearts burn within us! O my dear, where shall I sink at the goodness of my God: They take my advice in every thing that I can advise them in: their sweet conduct almost dissolves me, at times.

"My dear sister, does not my heavenly Father hold me up with one hand, whilst he corrects me with the other? I 'kiss the rod, and him that appoints it.' But Oh! my sister, my sister, the anguish I have felt for those that are dead, I cannot express to you; no more than I can my affection to, and the comfort I have in the living! Added to this anguish for the death of those I loved as my own soul, I have have had the pain of not being understood by my dear C——n, either in my services, or sufferings.

"My soul is truly happy then, and only then, when it is content to be accounted as a malefactor, though for well-doing! To be dumb, like my dearest Lord, to resemble him: my soul hungers and thirsts for nothing else, nothing else can satisfy me: I can love nothing contrary to him, in myself or others."

She was a most loving, instructive, and tender mistress to her servants, having a resolution that surmounted the greatest difficulties. And being indefatigable in pursuing whatsoever she took in hand, if convinced she was in the path of duty, she equally surmounted the reproaches of enemies, and the solicitations of friends.

A maid-servant falling under great distress of mind, and, for a time, becoming quite insane; she neither put her away, nor sent her to a place of confinement, as many of her friends advised: but kept her in her own house, and watched over her herself; using every lenient endeavour to relieve and bring her to reason again, till her husband, and faithful friend Miss J——n, fearing the poor lunatic might be permitted to do mischief, took her without Mrs. Turner's approbation, and conveyed her to a house of confinement: But she soon made her escape to her kind mistress, and recovering from her insanity, loved and served her faithfully many years afterwards, and at last died happy in her arms; as the following letter to Miss J——n testifies:

"My beloved sister,

"Our dear Molly's conflict is over, her warfare is

ended: and I have not the least doubt of her being with her dear Saviour, whom she longed to behold without a veil! So far as I can judge, this was her constant frame. But her senses have been greatly impaired this week past. She spoke very little; only answered questions; but greatly to my satisfaction, and to the glory of God, expressive of constant faith in Jesus, the most humbling views of herself, and universal love to all.

"I have been almost constantly with her, by day; with Molly Hill, and another kind sister: and such plenty of watchers from our society, fresh ones every night: and if she had lived, I know not the length of the list: I watched her last breath.

"The Lord is very near me; sweetly speaks, and explains his providential dealings, to my understanding.

"We shall keep the dear corpse as long as possible, and then bury her in a christian manner. Her funeral text is, Isaiah xii. 1, 2, verses. Farewell, my beloved sisters, believe me,

"Ever yours,

"JOANNA TURNER."

She was not less indefatigable in the church and society with which she was connected; but proved a wise, prudent, and tender nursing-mother to God's children.

She constantly exhorted them to support union of spirit, and to guard against falling-out by the way; and was a bright example of love and affection, in her own deportment.

She was very considerate, and indulgent to those who erred merely through human infirmity: but discovered the utmost detestation of sin. She could not bear to see the glory of God sullied, or religion injured, by any unworthy conduct in its professors. She hardened her brow as brass, and set her face as a flint, against self-indulgence, conformity to the world, loose walk or conversation, in whatever instance it appeared.

And she was not only as a Deborah, the prophetess, among them, to lead them forth to the battles of the Lord, or as a Miriam, to go before them in the worship of the Lord; but she was likewise as an Abigail, careful to give them good counsel, and to provide for their bodily necessities, as well as for the peace of their minds; never suffering any of her poor brethren to want the necessaries of life, if she knew it. And over and above attending to their extreme necessities, she generally gave the poor of their society an entertainment, at Christmas, of a plain but plentiful table; and on one of these occasions she wrote the following poem:

I.

"Oh, for a tune of loftiest praise,
To sing the goodness of the Lord!
Dear brethren, strive, your voices raise;
His love and power proclaim abroad!

II.

Look to the rock from whence he hew'd
Our guilty souls, and made us his:

The manna round our tents he strew'd,
O! how we taste the heavenly bliss!

III.

What hath God wrought, our souls may say,
Since to himself he made us cleave!
Jesus, our light, our life, our way,
In thee alone, we would believe!

IV.

What hast thou done, O Saviour dear,
For us here waiting at thy feet,
My dear companions present here!
O, may we in one spirit meet!

V.

Late not beloved, now highly priz'd;
What people are more own'd and blest!
The day of small things not despis'd;
Now drawn to lean on Jesu's breast!

VI.

Lately, like sheep we* wandered wide,
Or lonely, like the sparrow moped,
No pastor, teacher, heavenly guide,
No house, or friend to sooth our hope.

VII.

What a dear pastor has he giv'n;
Among ourselves him deign'd to raise:
To lead us on from earth to heaven;
O may we our dear Saviour praise!

VIII.

We kept and favoured, by his grace,
Low at his feet would humbly fall;

* A striking description of the infant state of the society.

That in his house we've still a place,
Dear brethren, 'tis his goodness all!

IX.

O! may we now with heart and voice,
Devote and give ourselves to thee!
Dear Saviour, take us as we are,
And make us what thou'dst have us be!

X.

Let us not grovel here below,
Nor tempt thy Spirit to depart;
From children, let us elders grow,
O Jesus, take our every heart!"

She was not only free to do laudable actions in the sight of the world, for God's sake, but was as ready to express her fidelity even on occasions that were likely to be prejudicial to her reputation, to her temporal interest, and to endanger the esteem of her dearest friends; not daring to slight the poorest of Christ's flock, or to be ashamed to be seen conversing with those that had been the most infamous and abandoned characters, before conversion; having that scripture on her mind, 'Whosoever is ashamed of me or my cause' my gospel or my people, 'of him will I be ashamed, before my Father and his holy angels.'

Many remarkable instances of denying her proud nature, and taking up the cross and shame, and treading in the steps of the friend of publicans and sinners, might be recounted, to the glory of that grace by which she was actuated. But as there are but few of my readers that can enter into the purity of

her motives, and those that cannot, may be stumbled at it, I forbear to mention them here.

To a person filled with the love of God, and sensible of their own demerit by nature, it is easy, nay it is pleasant, to stoop to, and treat as a brother, the meanest, the chiefest of sinners, who are brought into the fold of Christ: but it is a task much more difficult and irksome, to run the risk of offending the rich, the great, the wise, the amiable, and those you tenderly love, by faithfully warning and reproving for sin: yet did she take up that painful cross likewise, whenever called to it; and, like Paul, withstand even a Peter to his face, if she saw he was to be blamed.

It was her constant custom to rebuke profane swearers or cursers, and those who took the name of her God in vain, though ever so respectable characters in the world; and those she caught at play, or doing unnecessary business on the Lord's-day. And notwithstanding her faithfully and lovingly warning them to flee from the wrath to come, has stirred up the old nature in their wicked hearts, and her kindness has been returned with contempt, cursing, and mockery; yet many have remembered her admonitions afterwards, with gratitude and profit to their souls. And one, in particular, who departed this life in the full assurance of faith, acknowledged on his death-bed, that his first impressions originated from her reproof for breaking the sabbath. Respecting this youth, she writes thus to Miss J——n of Bristol;

"My dear friend,

"The Lord hath vouchsafed an astonishing blessing to dear M— H——, in the death of her grandson, once a most notoriously wicked boy; who, a few months ago, withstood and dared me in such a manner, as you would not think one of twelve years old capable of, because I would hinder him from playing on the Lord's-day.

"Last Wednesday his grandmother desired me, at his request, earnest, voluntary request, to come to him. I asked him, how he did? with great sweetness of voice, he answered, 'Very bad!' But how is it with your soul? 'I am doubting!' What do you doubt about? 'I am such a sinner, I fear I cannot be pardoned!' What have you sinned so much in? 'In every thing!' This answer he made with great eagerness. Doth any one sin, more than another, lie with weight on your conscience? 'No: I have done every thing that is bad?' I know you have, my dear, said I: You have been a remarkable sabbath-breaker, disobedient to your mother, and a good grandmother, a liar, and a thief. I then repeated several of the commandments, and said, 'God is of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, and if you had observed them instead of breaking them, and at last had offended but in one point, you could not be saved by the law. But would you break them again if you were well? 'No:' said he, 'I would hear preaching:' If God were to deal justly with you, must he not send you to hell? 'He must, for I deserve worse than hell!' Do you know of any way, in which such a sinner as you may go to heaven? 'Yes; Jesus

Christ hath died upon the cross to save sinners:' I asked him many questions, as, whether he believed in Christ as God? &c. to all which he answered marvellously! I asked him, what we should desire of God for him? He said, 'That he would take me to heaven;' and, after a pause, said, 'and pardon my sins!' He desired Mr. Clark would preach a sermon on these words, 'It is finished."

"He expressed the consolation he derived from those words, so often repeated in the Psalms, 'His mercy endureth for ever.' He said, 'He was a murderer all the day long.' His friends asked him, What he meant? He said, 'His sins murdered Christ.'

"The evening before he died, he said, 'The devil told him, if he lived he should be as bad as ever.' In the night he was heard to say, 'O precious, precious, precious Jesus! Lord, thy will be done!' notwithstanding he was in the most excruciating pain. The doctor told him, he would give him some palatable medicines, and perhaps he might yet live. He said, 'he did not wish to live.' His grandmother giving him some cold water to drink in the night, said to him, 'You will soon drink draughts of salvation!' 'Yes;' said he, 'from the rock, Christ!'

"About an hour before he died, he lamented his impatience; and said, 'if it were not pardoned, it was enough to damn his soul to hell!'" Mrs. Turner took great pleasure in reflecting upon the circumstances attending this youth's conversion, particularly that it did not discover itself more in his affections, than his judgment, and that he was so diffident of himself.

As she watched every opportunity, and took every occasion to win souls to Christ; if, when going to the house of God, she saw any loitering away their time whom she could take the liberty with, she would invite them to go with her, and has frequently succeeded.

Her invitations were always attended with the highest expressions of the value she had for the salvation of souls, and the importance of the gospel message.

It cannot be supposed that she was less concerned for the salvation of near and dear relations than for strangers. Prayers, offered to God on their behalf, were heard; and her endeavours, in conjunction with her prayers, proved successful. Mr. Turner's mother, two brothers and a nephew, with others, were made willing to take up the cross and follow a crucified Saviour.

Old Mrs. Turner had been exceedingly prejudiced against the Methodists: but, by coming to live in her son's house, they were removed. She saw her daughter-in-law was a pattern of piety: her conduct won upon her exceedingly. She gradually received light in her understanding, became an honourable member of the church; and after a life full of days, died in the full assurance of faith, leaving behind her a correspondent testimony. Mrs. Turner, in a letter to me, dated August the 12th, 1784, writes thus concerning her:

"Our dear mother was buried on the evening of the day that I received your letter. She was violently seized with the small-pox, lived a fortnight

and two days, and had the disorder very heavy. At times, we had hopes of her recovery, till the last two days; but she herself had neither hope nor wish for it. Her apothecary says, he never saw one so patient in such a disorder. Indeed, her meekness, gentleness, humility and spirituality, as well as her submission to the will of God, were beyond description.

"While she was able to speak plain, she spoke much of the Lord's gracious dealings with her soul; and exhorted, with great wisdom and power, those she conversed with, to cleave close to the Lord: and said, among other things, that 'if she was to recover, she did not know how she should bear the vanity of many who professed godliness."

Being in a high fever, and very thirsty, she told me one day, 'she was grieved that she thirsted for any thing more than for Jesus."

"Her desire after him was soon after satisfied: such hungering and thirsting was vouchsafed, as she never experienced before; she did indeed long to be with Christ! At the beginning of her illness she once said, but never after, that 'of the two she would choose to live a little longer, that she might live more to the glory of God;' but on a friend's telling her of the finished salvation, she rejoiced in that alone.

"As she was blind, whenever she wanted to drink, we used to put her hand to the cup and desire her to guide it to her mouth; on which she once said—

"Guide me, O thou great Jehovah!
Pilgrim o'er this barren land:
I am weak, but thou art mighty:

Guide me, with thy powerful hand!
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more!

"And she repeated the last couplet 'Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more' with such an emphasis as was most animating! Once, she spoke of a little conflict with Satan, and was set at liberty by these words; 'Rejoice, the Lord is king, &c. Both these hymns were sung the night her funeral sermon was preached; the text, her own choosing, Psalm xciv, verse 19."

It was a most agreeable sight to behold the mutual tenderness and respect Mrs. Turner and her mother-in-law were ever studious to shew to each other. It was impossible that they should live upon more sacred and affectionate terms: and indeed, there was such order and decorum preserved in the family by their joint conduct, and such quietude in their most busy hours; as is scarcely to be conceived, and very rarely imitated.

Mr. Turner's nephew, with a surviving brother, were left in almost destitute circumstances; and coming under the care of Mrs. Turner afforded opportunity to discover how wisely she could discharge the duty of a parent. She had them in all subjection; but it was not the subjection of slaves. They reverenced her, because they loved her; and by her excellent and rational discipline were restrained from evil. The youngest died of a fever, in the tenth year of his age, at boarding-school; where he manifested a love to the scriptures, and endeavoured,

by a variety of pretty methods, to excite his school-fellows to love them also.

We have good authority to say, "He had more than hope in his death." His aunt had early taught him to lisp his Redeemer's praise, and to sing hosanna to the son of David! She taught him to pray extempore; and often heard him, when he knew it not, in retirement, pray very earnestly for the pardon of his sins, and for an interest in the love of Christ.

One of his dying sentences was, that 'He was sure he loved God above all things;' though he had several times before expressed his fears, that if he died he should not go to heaven.

His brother, it is hoped, will follow the instructions and example of his valuable aunt.

In the instruction of children she had a very happy talent. In order to quell pride, envy, self-applause, malice and revenge; which the generality of parents cherish in them, by leading their young minds to admire their own wisdom, beauty, fine clothes, smart sayings, pert remarks, &c. and thus increasing their insufferable pertness of behaviour to others; she early taught them what wicked hearts they had; how ignorant, foolish, and sinful by nature: how Satan instilled into them every evil desire, every proud, envious and malicious thought; and therefore it was the wicked spirit that made them proud of fine clothes: which, she told them, were only made out of the grass of the field, the bowels of worms, or bits of greasy wool from the skins of beasts; that it

was he the father of lies, that made them tell lies, be angry with, envious at, or steal from one another.

Whenever they were guilty of a fault, she would go to the word of God, and point out from thence the sin and the punishment, if not forgiven; and make them pray to God for forgiveness, before they expected forgiveness from her.

Thus they learned to despise new clothes, instead of being proud of them; to be ashamed of coveting one another's play-things, and of assuming all the conversation to themselves, as the generality of children are now permitted to do: much less were they allowed to be pert and saucy to their elders, and servants; having the story of the bears tearing so many children to pieces, for unbecoming behaviour to God's servant set before them frequently by way of precaution.

And, as they were able to bear it, she told them, not only of their fallen state by nature, but also their recovery by Jesus Christ: and led them to love their Saviour for what he had done and suffered for them; and to believe his gracious promises of saving their souls; and to pray for power, to believe, love and obey him; as is manifest by the following letter to her surviving nephew, when at school, dated November the 8th, 1780.

"My dear Thomas,

"I should write to you oftener, but duties of various kinds employ my time; and I know you have in Mr. and Mrs. W——'s instructions, every thing I would wish you.

"I charge you, my dear, if you wish to be happy,

that you will attend to the instruction, admonition, and advice now given you! Indeed, it is a peculiar privilege for you to be where you now are: I am greatly sensible of it, and hope you are the same; and will improve it to the utmost of your capacity: then, with what pleasure will dear Mr. W——r see you capable of business, acting properly, and a blessing to the whole family.

"This greatly depends upon your improvement of your present opportunities, which I beg you to attend to: but above all, pray the Lord to convert you; if the tree is made good, the fruit will be good also.

"We often talk of you. Mrs. C——s frequently inquires after you: you are a great favourite with her, and with Mrs. C——k. Mr. Clark's father was buried last Wednesday.

"The late death of your dear brother, and other friends, calls aloud to you to be ready. You are not certain of a day, nor an hour; therefore, how dangerous, how foolish is it, to defer the preparation for it! when the remedy is at hand, to delay taking it; the loving Saviour wooing you; and you to neglect the gracious offer: Now is the accepted time! it is not yet too late: if you feel a want or desire of salvation, you may ask, you may expect to receive.

"You are not too young to die; you are not too young to be saved! Your dear grandmother is very anxious about you, longing for your salvation: indeed, it is the united prayer of all our hearts; and, I am sure, it is of the dear friends with whom you are; and, I hope, my dear, you are not unconcerned about it yourself.

"Do write the feelings of your heart honestly—speak the truth. For earnestly as we wish you to hear and understand God's voice to you in every thing, yet we entreat you, not to dissemble, nor use the least hypocrisy in sacred matters! it is the greatest sin that can be in God's sight! It is the greatest abomination to those who are like him,—all sincere christians! The folly of it is as great as the sin; for if the real case be not known, how can proper advice be given you? Can a physician prescribe properly for a patient, that concealeth his real disease.

"How happy shall I be, my dear Thomas, to be instrumental of benefiting your soul, of promoting your everlasting welfare! The most agreeable situations in life, will have their disagreeablenesses likewise; and in fourscore years, or much shorter time, there will be an end of all below! Everlasting happiness, or misery, will then begin; and Oh! how long, how inconceivably long their duration! for ever, and ever! When millions, and millions of ages are past, eternity is no nearer ending.

"To lose eternal happiness, now so freely offered, how shocking the reflection! And for the sake of indulging any one sin, that cannot now make happy, the blessed bleeding Saviour is slighted, the soul lost: My dear Thomas, you have had, you now have, these important truths so faithfully and affectionately pressed upon you, that you will, indeed you will, be without excuse, if you neglect so great salvation: But I hope better things of you, that you will go to God; give yourself as you are, as you can,

to the dear Saviour ; and he will pardon, bless, and make you happy.

"He is this moment very near to you,—now invites you! Is there no desire to be saved from sin here and from wrath eternal? Does not your conscience accuse you of sins, many, great, and aggravated.

"Well : be honest, confess to the Lord what you feel, and as you feel! He knows every thing without your speaking: but if you feel the misery of your state by nature, you cannot but cry out for mercy ; and then, my dear child, how we shall encourage you.

"All ministers, all christians, the whole word of God! are for your encouragement: A cloud of witnesses will testify, that Jesus still receiveth sinners; that his blood cleanseth from all sin ; that the Holy Spirit still convinces and comforts, leads and guides, those whom God the Father loves : May the blessed, adorable, triune God, bless this poor letter to your soul.

"This is the first week we have been without visiters for a long time ; and you may think I love you, by devoting the first leisure moments to you.

"The writing is bad ; you must take some little pains to read it. Part of it, was written by candle-light ; and my eyes decay exceedingly fast: but, I wish to recommend my blessed Saviour to you ; 'He increases my spiritual sight, strength, and enjoyments!' I am sure, I could speak it in the face of a whole assembled world, from a confidence of the truth, that not a mortal living, can taste such sweet peace, such real enjoyment, from riches, honors,

pleasures, or all the joys united together, that earth can afford, as I taste, feel, and richly enjoy, in the favor of my God: which he makes me as sensible of, by his blessed Spirit, as I am of any thing by natural means.

"If you feel sorrow for sin, and desire to be saved from it, and all the evil effects and consequents of it, by Jesus Christ the Lord, he will forgive you; and breathe peace, sweet peace into your soul: and then, you cannot but be happy, love, serve, and praise God! Accept our united love: present it to dear Mr. and Mrs. W——r; we shall be happy to see you all together at Trowbridge, the 23d of November, our anniversary. I am,

"Your affectionate aunt,

"J. TURNER."

At the bottom of a letter to me she writes thus: "Our dear nephew Thomas is the bearer of this letter. Providence appeared pointing out to us, and our hearts were inclined, to place him with Mr. W——r for a season.

"He is a dutiful, humble, loving child: we could not have spared him but for his good. He has a good capacity, but wants culture; like my myrtle, which I removed yesterday from a little pan to a large tub, that it might expand its root and spread its branches.

"Whenever you are at Marlborough, be so kind as to take a little notice of him. You know, I would not have him to be so particularized, as to be made vain or proud—may pride be ever hid from his eyes!

My bowels this moment yearn over him with the sincerest desire for his welfare."

Mrs. Turner's letters, conversation and prayers, were made very useful, in early life, to a dearly beloved niece; who departed this life a year and a half before herself, trusting in the merits of Christ alone for salvation; concerning whom she wrote thus to me in April 22, 1783.

"I was prevented going the journey I intended, by the illness and death of my dear niece, J——s, at the Hot-wells. A most calm, easy, and delightful exit it was! I can say, with confidence and full assurance, that she most sweetly fell asleep in Jesus!

"On the morning before her death, she told me and dear Miss J——n, that she was happier than ever she was in all her life, quite resigned and willing to die, if it were the will of God. She could leave her dear little girl, four years old, her most amiable husband, and all she had in the world, and go to Jesus.

"You will conceive of my happiness, to see one so dearly beloved go out of the world, so safe and happy? It was a most affecting scene, so mournfully pleasing! I saw her expire, in the easiest manner, without a pang, struggle or groan, in the thirty-seventh year of her age."

While Mrs. Turner filled up every part of civil, religious, and relative duty, and thus preserved a conscience void of offence, towards man; she did not forget to preserve a good conscience towards God.

It was a maxim with her, to keep the Lord's presence by secret prayer and the eye of faith, while

she was busied in her shop or counting-house: so that she made every place a house of prayer, often saying, that 'Every morning when she left her bed, she prayed to be enabled, 'to give her heart to God, and her hands to the world.' But she did not give every hour, even of the week-days, to the world. She attended public preaching, twice a week, constantly; and society or prayer-meetings, once: beside the time allotted for her private devotions, and the opportunities that offered for social prayer with her occasional visiters.

The Lord's day, from early in the morning till late in the evening, was almost entirely devoted to his service and worship, according to Isaiah 58. 13.

And what was peculiarly excellent and worthy of imitation in Mrs. Turner, was, her constant obedience to what she thought the will of God, however irksome, and contrary to flesh and blood, in little things as well as great: and often would she say, with Samuel, 'Hath the Lord as great pleasure in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as when the voice of the Lord is obeyed? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice; and to hearken, than the fat of rams: for wilful rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, (which Saul was noted to punish most severely,) and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.' To be stiff in our own opinions and self-willed, or not to bend our will to the Lord's, is as the greatest enormities.

"It does not signify," said she, "to pretend to stand up for, and make a great shew of strictness in obeying the outward ordinances of God, and condemning the sins and departures from the faith of

others, fighting about non-essential, modes, and opinions, while we are determined to obey his precepts, and the secret voice of his Spirit, no farther, than is agreeable to our own inclinations."

But sad experience teaches us, there is a disinclination in the natural man to go to God for counsel, secretly in the soul, where the Lord chooses to be sought unto. When we cannot but hear the Spirit speak, and are conscious that he speaks agreeable to the written word; how do we stifle the sound! Shutting our ears against it, turning immediately to some outward sacrifice, to be seen of men, or customary ordinance, in preference to the present sweet command of God; consulting the opinions of the people of God, and following their counsel, who are, in part, blind and selfish, rather than the positive word of the Lord: like Saul, willing enough to give up those things that would make us appear vile in the sight of men; but the pride of our good works, our good name; our own wisdom, will, and way, we choose to spare; pretending with those to sacrifice to the Lord.

How she was taught to hear, understand, and submit to the secret commands of God, may be learnt from the following extract of a letter to her husband, when she was employed in the Lord's work at Tisbury.

"My dear husband,

"The Lord's name be praised, all is well! no evil occurrence of any kind permitted to befall me! I hope and trust that it is the same with you, and all

the dear family, to whom I am not the less united, by distance: but here, the good Lord hath stationed me, for a season; and it is delightfully sweet to my soul to submit to his blessed commands.

"He makes me understand: He makes me obey, by heavenly gentle force, divinely-pleasing touches, leadings, drawings of the Spirit, and there is no resisting such charming allurements.

"Oh that christians, the men of God understood this all-attracting way, and practised it more! If they did, it is inconceivable how happy I should be, on earth! But ah! how few, how very few do I meet with, but deal harshly with, speak roughly to, tell me I should do so to others; and censure the overflowings of that love, my God is pleased to shed abroad in my heart.

"I am learning lessons of grace, from the hewing, sawing, plaining, of the carpenter; from the fitting, setting, and polishing of the stones, by the masons. Oh, my dear! every thing is right—all of divine appointment! Who am I, what am I, to be so blest and favoured by the majesty of heaven: He is with me, my brother, husband, friend: I have nothing to do, but to tell of his goodness, greatness, love, and mercy."

As a powerful incitement to obedience, she was blest with an unshaken confidence in God, as a God of love; in whom was no fury, for a moment, towards his children; who never afflicted willingly or grieved the children of men.

In one of the last letters she ever wrote, she speaks thus:

"He is love, most loving to me in all his dealings! My soul has for these twenty years adored him as a God of love, tasted the constant sweetness of being accepted in the beloved."

Indeed, her faith was in the general, strong, active, lively, unshaken by frames or feelings! It was that faith, which is of the operation of God's Spirit; that faith, which hath the unchangeable love of God for its foundation, and is built up with his promises; that faith, which getteth the victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil; and worketh by love: It was that faith, which the apostle saith 'subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.'

"As was said of a highly favoured servant of the Lord, "Not less eminent than 'her faith, was her humility: Amidst all her laying herself out for God and the good of souls, she ever preserved that special grace, of making no account of her labours:' She held herself and her abilities in the most despicable light: and seemed to have that word continually before her eyes, and ever on her tongue, which she chose as a text for her funeral-sermon, many years ago, 'I am nothing."

"Under a sense of her unprofitableness, she writes thus to me, in the year 1783.

"All is well that my heavenly Father, appoints or permits! My soul aspires after the most perfect submission and obedience to his will! To will, this

I can speak to the glory of his grace, is continually with me; but my performances are very, very low, mean, contemptible, dross, dung, insignificant and vile beyond description, but not wickedly designed: With all the poor weak powers of my soul, I would, I do as I can, ascribe constantly all the glory to my God and Saviour.

"Notwithstanding it is but little that I know, yet I know, 'All the good that is done upon the earth, he doth it himself:' 'All power is his.'

"In me, that is, in my flesh, dwelleth no good thing, at any time: no, not for a moment! I am the clay and he is the potter! 'The voice, if tuned, he tunes: the nerve that writes, sustains: He moulds, he forms, he fashions: In him, I live, I move, I have my new created form! I am stupid in learning, slow in advancing, can but creep; but I wish to fly, in his blessed ways, his delightful commands! But I can do nothing but commit fresh faults, receive fresh pardons, fresh supports and supplies, and 'attempt to lisp fresh songs of praise.'

"Places, situations, different dispensations of Providence, or kinds of employment, are but of little consequence to me. If my Lord, my life, my love be near, I can do all things, or can bear all sufferings. Whilst he upholds me, I cannot sink nor be dismayed.

"He is my all; my whole of religion is, to please and enjoy Him. He sweetly, most condescendingly teaches me, by his spirit, word, and providence; and it is a most delightful road.

"I thirst, I gasp, for greater degrees, for larger

measures; and yet feel the sweetest satisfaction of mind, except with myself.

"I can do nothing well! I am constantly overwhelmed with great shame and confusion of face, and breathe, from my inmost soul, 'Lord, thou knowest all things, thou knowest that I would love thee;' notwithstanding I do not, I cannot as I ought. I want to be all gratitude and love; I want to be entirely dead to all below, as to inordinacy of affection; as angels, as the blessed spirits above are; and to love good of whatever kind, and wherever it is: love what my adorable heavenly Father loves, and hate what he hates.

"Nothing, nothing can satisfy my soul, till I awake after His likeness. I hate myself, and my very, very amazing, shameful, scandalously shameful unlikeness; considering the vast helps, the amazing expense bestowed upon me: so that I am sure I ought to kiss the lips, yea, the feet, of the faithful friend that reproves and admonishes me.

"I am heartily convinced, that it is the Lord that begins, carries on, and must complete the whole of salvation.

"It is he alone that has worked on the hearts of the poor sinners at Tisbury, to will and to do. And Oh! his divine goodness to me, in condescending to use me as an instrument; if he ever has been pleased to use me. The constant cry of my soul is 'Send, Lord, by whom thou wilt send!'

"Oh, humility! sweet humility! I long for it. Poverty of spirit, I wish for more than heaven; I

cannot be satisfied without it. Pray for me, my friend, that it may speedily, and in the largest measure, be bestowed upon me.

"I do not desire great things. I want to be little, unseen, unknown; loving, adoring, aad obeying my Saviour, my Lord and my God: and cherishing his dear members; and doing good to a whole world, if I could. Farewell, my dear friend, let me hear from you soon, who am,

"The poorest of creatures,

"J. TURNER."

From this deep self-abasement and self-abhorrence, sprang great pity to, and patience with the weakness, ignorance, infirmities and frailties of others. Her patience, forbearance, and continued favours to some that repeatedly offended in matters that concerned her worldly interest, were uncommon. But she aimed to follow her divine Master's precepts and example, as far as lay in her power; particularly, that of forgiving injuries, overcoming evil with good: and thus heaping coals of fire upon them, to melt, if possible, their obdurate hearts, and refine their drossy natures.

It produced in her, likewise, a mind ready to every good word and work: every thing that could promote her neighbour's real interest; and no cross seemed hard or wearisome to her, that tended to that salutary end.

Accordingly, she went about doing good continually; often took long and tiresome walks, and expensive journeys, for the good of individuals, at the

request of those she had never seen; besides the expense of money, health and ease, she bestowed so freely, for the prosperity of different churches, and the spread of the gospel in her own neighbourhood, and distant villages. She often went miles for the good of souls, when the situation of her health required that she should be carefully nursed at home. And but the week before she took to her bed, where she died in less than a fortnight, she went to the house of God, unable as she was to walk, on purpose to prevail with a friend distressed in mind, to go with her there, in hopes of comfort from the word preached; and standing about on the cold stones, importuning her friend, with whom she could not prevail, she caught a violent cold, that struck the cancer inwards on her lungs; and, to all human appearance, shortened her days.

In bearing pain she was indeed most exemplary, and continued more and more so to the last. Nothing but the fear of speaking an untruth, would extort from her, at any time, unnecessary confessions of pain or trouble; much less complaints or murmurs at the Lord's dealing with her body or soul. Her general answer to kind inquirers was—"All is well!"

Mrs Turner was eminent, likewise, for a great share of divine wisdom; which she exercised on all occasions, spiritual and temporal, to the advantage, satisfaction, and admiration of those concerned.

Her worldly affairs, were conducted in the same spirit as her heavenly. She went to the same eternal fountain for supplies of skill and power, to perform little things as well as great: remembering that scrip-

ture, "Not a hair of your head falls to the ground, without your heavenly Father's notice;" and "doth the Lord take care for oxen and sparrows only, and not for his children?"

She felt it her privilege, to expect the Lord's direction in all doubtful and difficult cases of common life; and even to bless and prosper the smallest work of her hands. She knew that every thing he called her to in his providence, he would give her wisdom to perform; and therefore, "whatever her hands found to do, she did it with all her might," asking help of Him.

Two great advantages resulted from this simplicity of faith:—First, she was encouraged by it to do every thing, that appeared right and proper to be done, immediately, as soon as it occurred; and thus, kept her mind and memory unburthened:—Secondly, she received her light and power, from the Fountain of wisdom and might, and therefore did all things well.

But among all the graces, that of love shone most conspicuous!—Love to poor sinners, enabled her to give up the honours, pleasures, and profits of the world, to become a servant to the church. At her first setting out in the cause of Christ, and after the Lord honoured her with a blessed increase of this world's goods, she still continued to devote—the much as well as the little, to the service of precious souls.

Before she was a house-keeper, she laid out all she could spare from her own necessary supplies of apparel, &c. on the poor and needy: and once, believ-

ing herself called of the Lord in his Providence to give her last half-guinea, to help a poor sick man in great distress, with which she had designed to buy shoes for herself, of which she was in great want; she gave her half-guinea, and condescended to beg a pair of shoes of a friend, without acquainting her with the real state of the case.

When she became a house-keeper, with the small income of twenty-five pounds per year, she lived on bread and water much of her time in order to afford a meal of meat once a week to several poor people who could not purchase it: and was once so reduced, as to go without bread herself for a whole day; and must have continued so a longer time, had not the Lord appeared for her wonderfully in his providence, just in the time of need; for expecting some young friends out of the country to visit her, she was looking over some letters to entertain them with, when to her utter astonishment, gratitude and joy, dropped out from one of them half a guinea and some silver.

In these straitened circumstances, she oftentimes laboured with her hands on plain work, for hire, day and night; without refreshment for her poor body.

And when she had all things and abounded, she did not cease her labours for the poor, but rather increased them; doing herself two people's work in her shop, by day, and giving up her necessary rest at night, in order to have wherewith to give to him that needeth; and to build an house, where they might assemble to hear the good news of salvation for lost sinners.

But her love was not confined to her own church

and people; it was extended towards all mankind; towards Christians of every name. To all who loved the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity, and bore his image and superscription, she gave the right hand of fellowship, saying, "Behold my mother and my brethren! whosoever doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother." Matt. xii. 49, 50.

The following letter, among many others written to her cousins in Mr Wesley's society, will give us a little specimen of her catholic spirit.

"Dear Sisters of my soul,

"I am ashamed of all I do, or think, or say; it seems such a boasting! but it is in my God, and I never can speak a thousandth part of his goodness. My situation appears to me just like the lepers, that were in the possession of such good things, that they did not well to hold their peace.

"I am much strengthened in my soul and refreshed by visiting you. I can understand, and do love all his dear precious ones; they are his joy and delight, and so they are mine. He rejoiceth over them as with singing; and he gives me, blessed be his dear name, a measure of that same spirit, that was poured out upon him, without measure.

"In all their afflictions, He is afflicted; and in my little, very little sphere, I mourn with them that mourn in spirit, and weep with them that weep.

"Prejudices, evil-surmising, pride, bigotry, sparing themselves, loving the world, &c. &c. amongst the dear followers of the Lamb; who should be gentle towards all men, and love their brethren; because

the blessed Lord takes all as done to himself, give me much pain.

"And surely, my dear sisters, it cannot be pleasing to Him who is love; to slight, lightly esteem, or in the least to withdraw from a brother or sister, but for disorderly walking; and they are not brethren, if they are not in the faith of Christ.

"What my blessed and adorable God will do with me, by me, or for me, I know not; nor desire any thing, but that his will may be done. But it is this moment the determination of my soul, to know nothing save Jesus Christ; and the desire of my heart is, for more of his loving spirit: that I may abide in him, and he in me continually; and then, and not till then, shall I be 'satisfied, when I awake up after His likeness!' I have strong desires to know and love my God more, and serve him better; for hitherto, all is nothing.

"Give my kindest love to Mr. Wesley, and beg him to pray and praise for me; for he is mine in Christ, and I am his servant for Christ's sake.—Though placed in another part of the vineyard, we are now walking by the same rule, and minding the same thing.

"If that dear man of God find freedom of spirit towards me to write me a letter, I believe it would be very acceptable to God, and profitable to me; and though it be but a simple means, it may pull down a strong hold of Satan.

"I want the wondering world to say, 'See how these Christians love!' in deed and in truth, and not in word only.

"I know more than two or three, are agreed touching this; and the Lord will grant it us, on earth now, or in heaven soon.

"The same blessings I want for myself; it is the desire of my soul that they may be poured out on every member of Christ; of every persuasion, kindred, tongue and people. And I know you all pray for me, who am the weakest, abundantly the weakest of all. And I believe your prayers are heard and answered; for which mercy I am deeply abased.

"I am your ever affectionate sister,

"J. TURNER."

In the latter end of the year, one thousand seven hundred and eighty, the Lord saw it necessary for the further purification of her soul, to put this grace of universal love to the severest test; as he generally does suffer those graces of his people, for which they are most eminent, to be most severely exercised.

It was a painful strait, indeed, into which she was brought! but looking unto the Lord for strength, she was enabled to follow what his Spirit, Word, and Providence demanded from her; though it cost her abundance of tears! Many wakeful anxious nights, and frequent faintings, were the consequents of the struggle, between duty to God, and love to those she held most dear: besides the necessity of humbling herself at the feet of those who had unjustly accused her; and taking upon herself faults, of which she was not guilty before God.

What her feelings were, may be partly gathered

from the following extract from a letter to a Calvinist sister, Miss E. B——n.

"Pray for me, my dear sister, that no root of bitterness may at any time rise in my heart: If my love constantly flowed, as it often does, through the riches of grace, I would not change my state with angels! The love of God shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost, and causing us to love all that he loves, and to hate all that he hates, changes earth into heaven, makes this wilderness a paradise regained! For having Jesus we possess all things.

"My dear sister, however hard it is to be understood, I am assured from the word of God, and from my own experience, that the unloving spirit and behaviour of the different denominations of christians to each other, their evil-surmisings, their envy, their prejudice, party zeal, and bigotry, are certainly a grieving and quenching of the Holy Spirit! I mean, Calvinists against Arminians; and Arminians against Calvinists; when it is certain, God is no respecter of persons, I mean parties: but those that worship the Father, through the Son, and by the Holy Ghost, in every place, are accepted of him.

"Oh, that our beloved brethren were all wise, that they understood this: that Ephraim would no more grieve Judah; nor Judah vex Ephraim; that the peace of nations, might be sanctified to the peace of the church, one true, pure, holy and undefiled religion! Then, she will be terrible as an army with banners: strengthened by union with fellow-members, fellow-heirs, to carry on the war with every daring foe, every darling lust! Then, my dear sister,

we might rove over all the holy hill of Zion, without suspicion, from any quarter, of defection, in our hearts or heads; cherishing, encouraging, assisting, and most lovingly reproving, as need requires, and as the Spirit, Word, and Providence of our adorable head and king direct! without unkind judging and censuring, the unloving arraignment and condemnation of brethren, with whom, in judgment, we see eye to eye, in regard to divine truths, but cannot, without the greatest sufferings of spirit, submit to that narrowness and contractedness, that human prudence, if not diabolical power, which I much suspect is at the bottom! For it is not, it is not, my beloved sister, 'the wisdom that is from above; which is pure, peaceable, gentle, easy to be intreated, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.'

"My gracious God has given me great power against those evil spirits that would lodge in my own heart, and infect almost all I come near: They are diabolical, and call themselves by false names! Disturb their false peace, my dear sister, wherever you discover them: in the name and strength of Jesus you shall overcome; and by the love of the spirit you shall be impowered.

"A marvellous degree of light and love is vouchsafed to me, the weakest, vilest, unworthiest of all, since I have been willing, in the day of my Lord's power, yea enabled, to rejoice in 'his sending by whom he will send: rejoicing with those that rejoice, weeping with those that weep, loving his image wherever I see it; cherishing those that do or suffer his will, as my mother, sisters, brethren;

knowing no man after the flesh, doing in the name of a disciple, not of a party, and my happiness is inexpressible: This sweet communion of saints, is so soul-strengthening as well as comforting, that I cannot but wish others to partake of it.

"But this blessing, instead of talking much about it, desirable as it is, we must pray our heavenly Father to bestow, largely and universally, on all the churches! I hope the time is coming when it shall be poured out on all, at least we cannot offend any by praying for it.

"My beloved sister, if your heart be right with my heart, unite with me at the throne of grace on a Tuesday evening, as often as you can, from eight to nine o'clock! Acquaint our dear sisters Johnson with it; for, I do believe, it is the best way, 'to pray for the Holy Spirit's being poured out;' better, much better, than wearing ourselves out in persuading the people, whose hearts are not prepared! I am much united to your dear nephew: my love to his parents, accept my whole family's love, and believe me, ever

"Your affectionate friend,

"J. TURNER."

July 12, 1781, she writes thus to her beloved cousin Miss J——n:—

"All is well: My blessed God is proving me, trying me before men, that his own grace may appear, his power be magnified, his great name glorified; my soul profited, enlarged, more swallowed up in him, weaned from created carnal things, lose my partialities, littleness, and unless I had believed I had fainted.

"The delightful lesson I am learning now, is, 'The all-sufficiency of God;' All my springs are in him: Every thing is what he is pleased to make it, all blessings flow from him: and, 'is there evil in the city and the Lord hath not done it.'

"Oh! how dear all his servants are to me—his are mine! Many waters cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it.

"Oh, my dear sister, I am determined to know nothing, save Jesus Christ and him crucified: and my soul is abundantly satisfied at this well-spring of delight: I have sat down and counted the cost; and whatever I feel, whatever I lose, I shall be an immense gainer: And indeed, how can I reject such rich enjoyments, such real happiness, so frequently offered, so freely given.

"Did my dear husband tell you Mr. W——n preached at our tabernacle, Lord's-day week? I get my own will by standing still; and things that I desire are most wonderfully accomplished, 'by my doing nothing!' 'He that believeth, maketh not haste:' and we must never 'do evil that good may come.'"

"I hope, I shall be more zealous than ever: the nearer I am to the centre, may the motion be the swifter! But instead of talking much to men, I wish to pray to my God and Saviour that my own spirit may be 'as a weaned child:' I speak freely to you of the state of my soul at all times, and your letters constantly help me. Accept my kind love: I hope you will pray for

"Your poor

"THOMAS, and JOANNA TURNER."

Indeed, she was, the last half-year of her life, like a little child in the arms of a tender parent; looking on herself as less than the least of all saints; drinking into the humble loving spirit of her Saviour; as the following song of praise to God, and love to christians of every denomination, written a few months before her death, will testify:

"My blest employ, while earth is my abode,
Shall be to lisp thy praise, my glorious God!
To trust thy wisdom, goodness, love, and pow'r,
And live thy praise my each remaining hour,
Believe in Jesus, and obey his word!
Sweet to my heart is each divine record!
My guilty soul, at no time can be blest,
But in the glorious wedding garment drest!
A sinner sav'd! a sinner sav'd, I cry!
What is my Father's house, and what am I!
Divinely drawn, I feel the heavenly birth!
My soul's creating new, while here on earth!
Celestial love shed in my heart abroad,
Unites to all, united to my God!
Subjects of mercy, miracles of grace;
In you my Saviour's image I can trace!
Give me your hand, receive my kiss of love;
We'll help each other to the realms above!
No matter what's your party, name or sect,
If to my Saviour you shew due respect,
And the vain customs of the world reject!"

But such as did not shew due respect to her Saviour, not allow him to be God, equal to the Father, and took pains to teach men so; and would not hear the regenerating and sanctifying influences of the Holy Spirit, she could not find union of spirit with: but would pity, pray for, and endeavour to win them

to Christ, by the most loving, persuasive arguments and behaviour possible: And never could she be brought to think the way to win souls to Christ, was, by strife and doubtful disputations; making a man an offender for a word: much less could she allow herself to make a jest of doctrines, others held most sacred; but always treated what she thought sinful, with the most grave and solemn rebuke. What was not sinful, not expressly, nor by plain consequence, condemned of her divine master, she did not pretend to condemn as sinful: allowing every one the same liberty of conscience she enjoyed herself, saying, "Let every one be persuaded in his own mind," and walk according to the light received of the Lord; who giveth to every one, severally, as they have need, for the use of their own souls, and the place he designs they shall fill, in the church, and in the world.

Thus lived, thus walked, thus died in the faith of God's elect, Mrs. Joanna Turner! There was a sweet expression remaining on her face, of that perfect peace, patience, and love, with which her spirit was filled during her illness, when that spirit was returned to God who gave it, and nothing remained but a lump of lifeless clay! that clay, was amiable even in death: and having been the temple of the Holy Ghost, was highly reverenced and repeatedly visited, with a melancholy pleasure by her inconsolable husband, and a large number of weeping friends, from the various denominations of spiritual people round the town.

Even those of her neighbours that had not been

favoured with her light, and enjoyment of things eternal, could not help giving a testimony to her moral character, by saying,' 'She had not left her equal in the town, for public and private usefulness, in her family, trade, and connexions."

Her husband, on whose heart this God-like character of her's was deeply engraved, spared no expense, to testify the deep sense he had of her worth: inviting all the ministers who had gone up to the help of the Lord at Tisbury, more than thirty of whom gladly paid this tribute of respect to her memory, by attending her funeral! But no part of this expense was half so honourable to the dead, as the multitude of genuine tears that flowed from almost every eye! Hundreds of persons, with aching hearts, attending her obsequies, and lining the streets as they conveyed her to the grave, shewed their respect, by the most decent behaviour, and the most expressive solemn mournful silence.

And when the voice of the singers broke through the evening air, and penetrated the gloomy silence that reigned among the weeping female friends and relatives, that were admitted by a private way into the tabernacle; it is impossible to describe the feelings of every heart! One general gust of grief burst forth, and changed the awful silence, into sobs and groans of deepest woe.

The feelings of Mr. Turner's heart on attending this melancholy solemnity, can better be conceived by every mind endued with sensibility, than described by my pen! Great was his loss: being deprived by her death, not only of a most amiable useful wife,

in a temporal, but of the most agreeable companion, friend and adviser, in a spiritual relation.

May all that knew or ever heard of her, take the advice of her beloved pastor, who preached her funeral sermon: 'imitating her example of deep self abasement before God and man; saying, from a feeling sense of inability to every good word and work, 'I am nothing;' yet, in the strength of the Lord, be pressing forward, with united efforts, to supply her lack of service! as when a drop of water is suddenly taken from the ocean, all the circumjacent particles rush in to supply the deficiency, and restore the level surface:' which may God grant, in his infinite mercy! Amen.

And now, my dear fellow-immortals, of every character, who have perused these pages, permit me to address you as by a voice from the dead.

You, that till now have been flying in the face of omnipotence; you, that are sending forth your arrows, even bitter words, oaths and curses against the thick bosses of his buckler; or if in genteeler life, dare his vengeance only by your actions, so contrary to his will, which say continually. 'Who is the Lord that we should serve him? we desire not the knowledge of his ways!' O my dear fellow sinners! I beseech you to consider, that the Lord is the God that made you for his glory: and if you do not repent, and lay hold on the atoning blood and righteousness of Christ, through which alone he can be just, and

yet the justifier of such ungodly sinners as you are, remember: O remember! it will be for his glory, you should be eternally miserable: 'The Lord our God, is a great God, a mighty and a terrible: He will reward the doer of evil, according to his wickedness: He will ease himself of his adversaries, and avenge himself of his enemies: O! how suddenly will they consume, perish, and come to a fearful end! Now consider this, ye that forget God, lest he tear you in pieces, and there be none to deliver."

And you, my dear convicted friends, many of whom our departed sister has often striven to bring to Christ in vain, if it be yet in vain: O! let her, though now dead, speak to purpose: Only think, what her long resistance to the voice of God's Spirit cost her: Only think, what a hell she had in her soul! what intolerable pangs of conscience, that could force the tears from her eyes, almost continually, for two years together, and what terrors of mind must those be, during all that time, which made her apprehend the earth would open, as she passed the streets in her gay attire, and let her quick into hell.

Oh! if you would escape such torments of mind, which may end in insanity, death, temporal and eternal, pray earnestly, cry mightily and continually to the Lord for mercy; that he may bless you with a saving faith in the Lord Jesus, and enable you to forsake sin, and plant his fear in your heart, that you may never more depart from him, "Wherefore do you spend money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which satisfieth not? Hearken diligently unto your gracious Saviour, and eat ye that

which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness: Incline your ear, and come unto him: hear, and your soul shall live."

And you, who do already feel the torments of a guilty conscience, and are brought, as she was, to the very brink of hell, under the terrifying apprehension that the fear of God is not before your eyes, and that you are lost and undone sinners, and are grieved and burthened with the weight of your sins, and weary of them, I pronounce you blessed mourners: for the Lord of heaven and earth hath said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy-laden, with the burthen of sin, and I will give you rest. Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted."

Do you really fear that you do not fear God? Your very fears prove that you do truly fear him! Do you look upon yourselves as lost and undone sinners in yourselves? Remember, you are just such characters as Christ came to save: He 'came, to seek and to save, those that are lost:' He came into the world, to save those sin-sick sinners, that see no righteousness in themselves: 'He came not to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance!' You are the poor and needy, whom the Lord careth for:'—therefore cast all your care upon him; and if you have not power to do that, cast yourselves, burthen and all, upon him, for he hath promised to sustain you! He hath said to his prophet, 'Say to those that are of a fearful heart, be strong, fear not; for I the Lord will come with vengeance; I will come with a recompence; I will come and save you! I have taken vengeance for all your sins, original and actual,

on my own Son: He hath drunk the bitter dregs of my wrath for you: and henceforth, 'there is no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit!' I will come and recompence his meritorious life and death, on your blessed heads, by bestowing on you all his purchased blessings, spiritual, temporal, and eternal! Only be strong in the faith, giving glory to God! pray for it, if you have it not; for he hath said, 'Ask, and ye shall receive; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.' 'Your heavenly Father, will give the Holy Spirit, to them that ask him. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.'

And you my professing brethren and sisters, who have tasted that the Lord is gracious, and been frequently convicted of sin, yet halting betwixt two opinions; dividing your hearts between God and the world, between the creature and the Creator, who are yet in the wilderness of sin, loving the flesh-pots of Egypt; self-willed, earthly-minded, having a name to live, and yet are dead, O think, how many of the children of Israel perished in the wilderness, on account of their idolatry; seeking their own ways and wills, and not willing to fight the battles of the Lord; not enduring hardships as good soldiers of Jesus Christ; not willing to venture through the Anakims, the mighty opposers, into the promised land: and be exhorted to turn to the Lord with full purpose of heart, lest he destroy you also in the wilderness! Reflect: if the subject of these memoirs had followed her first convictions, how much distress and trouble of mind she had saved herself: and how much sooner

she had entered into the liberty of the gospel, the spiritual promised land, the land of divine rest and peace, which flows indeed with milk and honey.

And you, my christian brethren and sisters, who have not only tasted that the Lord is gracious, but have long enjoyed the blessed comforts of his soul-supporting doctrines, and heart-reviving promises; let her example, set forth in these pages, stir you up afresh, to follow her as she followed Christ; to be continually vigilant, and on your guard against the assaults of your spiritual adversaries: And be ye always attentive to know what is the will of the Lord concerning you! Let your eyes be fixed constantly, on the eye of your divine master; for he hath said, 'I will guide thee with mine eye and afterwards receive thee to glory.'—The eye of his Providence, Spirit, and Word must be our constant guide; and we must pray for faith and power to obey the smallest intimations of his will! The wheels of Providence, according to Ezekiel, are full of eyes; and it is the Spirit of God that is the mover of these wheels! And in order to know whether the providence be specially arranged of God, we must have recourse to the law and to the testimony, which is our sure word of prophecy. And being well convinced what is his will concerning us, we must not draw back from following his leadings, because carnal reason may throw in her objections, or erring mortals may discourage us, who see not with our eyes: but having set our hand to the gospel-plough, in whatever place, method, or manner the Lord hath appointed, we must proceed as she did, however

arduous the task, and however disqualified we may appear to ourselves or others; remembering, that no man 'goeth a warfare at his own charges:' He that commands will equip! Nay more; he will give strength equal to the day, grace sufficient for every duty: Whom the divine husbandman employs, he will furnish for every good word and work. 'His power shall ever rest upon us; his strength shall be made perfect in our weakness; he will supply all our needs, out of his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."

Let us, moreover, be careful, how we discourage the hearts and weaken the hands of those, who believe themselves called to any extraordinary services; especially, when it is attended with taking up the cross, and forsaking self for God: lest by so doing we not only spoil their usefulness, but cause the Lord's people to transgress, by drawing them back tothe quenching or grieving of the Holy Spirit.

Remember, if Mrs. Turner had consulted with flesh and blood, or hearkened to carnal reason, she would not have sunk sixty pounds of her small fortune, to build a place for the preaching of the gospel, at her first setting out in the cause of God: nor, when the Lord had prospered the work of her hand so marvellously, by filling the house she had built with worshippers; would she have encouraged her husband to build that respectable place at Trowbridge called the tabernacle: which cost more than the whole of her fortune, and has occasioned so many hundreds to come under the word; which has proved such a savour of life unto life to their immortal souls.

And, if she had hearkened to many of God's dear

people, who were not permitted, for a trial of her faith and obedience to the voice of God's Spirit, just then, to see with her eyes; she would have been withheld from a work, as much owned and blessed of God as any of her former; namely, introducing the gospel to Tisbury: where, all that have ears to hear, eyes to see, and hearts to understand, must now acknowledge she was called and employed of the Lord in a wonderful manner, to the raising up a church in that place; against which the gates of hell cannot prevail.

There is such a thing, my friends, as being careless daughters, women that are at ease in Zion, faint-hearted in the cause of God, to which a woe is denounced! a going two ways; a standing still, or going backwards in the narrow road that leadeth to life; and so, speedily getting into the broad way that leadeth to destruction: There is such a thing, as turning our backs on our spiritual enemies; and so, suffering them to gain an advantage over us, and retard our course to the spiritual Canaan! Let us therefore fear, lest a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of us should come short of it.

Let us not hearken to those who are faint-hearted, and say, we are not able to go up against the enemies of the Lord, for they are stronger than we: but let us pray for Caleb's spirit, and for the spirit of those who followed the Lord fully, who entered into his views, from a singleness of eye to his glory, and said, 'Up, let us fight the battles of the Lord!' Let us, my friends, go up at once and possess the land, for our spiritual Joshua will bring us in! We are able, he says, in his strength; let us look to him for strength! Let us 'lift up our eyes unto the hills from

whence cometh our help:' so shall our 'bow abide in strength, and the arms of our hands, at all times, be made strong, by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob!' Let us come out of the wilderness, leaning on our beloved, as our departed sister did; for she constantly trusted in the Lord, therefore was she never confounded, though men and devils rose up in battle array against her! She was not afraid of the great giants, the Amalekites, the natives of the place! She had tasted of the pleasant fruits; and in the strength of the Lord, she determined to oppose them all and take possession: and she was brought off "more than conqueror, through him that loved her and gave himself for her."

She did not enter and possess the land in this life: and is now, doubtless, in possession of that fulness of bliss, that complete everlasting "rest which remaineth for all the faithful people of God."

The following pertinent and excellent remarks, of a worthy dissenting minister, to whose helping hand I am indebted for many judicious reflections; the public, I doubt not, will think worthy of being subjoined.

Let it, first, be remarked, that in what is written, the memorialist doth not design to exalt the subject of these memoirs above the rank of human beings, as though by her own power or holiness she were what she is described; so far from it, that she knew assuredly, that she had nothing of good, by nature, more than another person; which Mrs. Turner her-

self was not wanting to acknowledge, in all her correspondence and conversation, to the last day of her life, as the preceding pages testify.

Inherent sin, hath put us all upon a level: so that, though one may be more notorious than another, no man has any thing of merit to boast of before God. Our object is, to display the riches of the grace of Christ: to shew, by an example within our knowledge, to what a pitch grace can rise; and to stir up the professors of the gospel, to be followers of her, even as she was of Christ Jesus.

Secondly, we wish not by what we have written, to discourage any who may appear to come short of her standard. I say, appear; because all are not in reality inferior to her in their attainments, who are so in appearance. Stars, invisible in the element, may be equally bright with those which are visible to our eye, but their situation does not admit of their being observed. But let not this remark encourage the slothful professor.

Thirdly, however advantageous a situation believers may be placed in, or whatever abilities they may have for it, it will not make them proud or vain! You can no more deprive the sun of his glory, than you can induce him to take that glory to himself! And equally impossible it is for the real christian to withdraw his shining or to arrogate to himself the glory of his own light.

The justice of this remark leads to the mention of an occurrence, not taken particular notice of in the memoirs, which is, that Mrs. Turner, dropping into the prevailing custom of the dissenters, in choosing a text for a funeral subject, and knowing the high

esteem her friends held her in, many years ago, as Mr. Clark observes, in her funeral sermon, selected 2 Cor. 12th chapter, and part of verse the eleventh, to be improved at the time of her interment. She particularly reminded him of his obligation to use it, the evening before her death, as is mentioned in the memoirs! And does it not carry an evidence of the humble view she had of herself through all that time? If she had been an angel, instead of a human being, she would still have said at the conclusion of every successful undertaking, give God the glory, I am nothing."

Fourthly, The justness of the real christian's sentiment of his inability, and his disposition to disclaim the glory of his own performances, do not slacken his exertions for the glory of God! He is like a child who feels himself deeply concerned in the advancement of his father's interest, and endeavours to exert himself for the promotion of it! If zeal be enervated, and we aim more at our own comfort and convenience than his glory, it is a proof that our hearts are not right, and that we are not steadfast in his covenant! It best becomes the christian, to say, 'Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?' and to make the end of one good work, the beginning of another.

Fifthly, Our blessed Redeemer will acknowledge the willing mind, which is disposed for his service; and in the faithful discharge of it, will increase our ability, and cause our usefulness to grow with our years! If we are faithful in that which is least, he will bless and increase us more and more.

The preceding remarks are made to prevent gracious souls under disadvantageous circumstances, and

dejection of spirit, from yielding to discouragement, because they cannot produce an experience equivalent with Mrs. Turner's! But they are not intended to be a salve for the luke-warmness and prevailing indifference of our modern professors of religion, who deviate as much from the spirit of the gospel, as they should from the spirit of the world; and live as much under the dominion of a carnal spirit, as they should under the governance of the spirit of Christ.

It is no unusual case for people to admire what they will not imitate; and to applaud the diligence of others, while they themselves stand all the day idle! It is to be feared, Mrs. Turner's shrine will have more admirers than Mrs. Turner's self will have imitators.

Beware, dear reader, that it be not thy case! There is no reason that it should! Be suitably impressed with a sense of the love of Christ, thy obligations to him, and the sufficiency of his grace for thee; and thy soul will no longer cleave unto the dust, but thy affections will be set upon things above. When the apostle recommends a similitude of mind to Christ, he exemplifies his humility, on purpose to shew, wherein the correspondence between Christ and the christian should consist! We assent to the propriety of the parallel, but object against being examples of it! Hence there are so few who dare to be singularly good, who are bold to be patterns of a life devoted to God; or, if not in providence set in the sphere of a public example, ready to conform to those who, being so stationed, eminently fill up and adorn it.

How many christians are there in affluence, who, in proportion to their circumstances, do less for the glory of God, than their fellow christians in humble life! Why? Because their demands multiply as their property increases! They cannot possess abundance, without living up to a pitch of grandeur answerable to it! A decent appearance above the common rank will not satisfy them! They must make a splendid figure; they cannot retrench, either from their buildings, their dress, or their table! The great object, self, is ever to be regarded; and consequently, the glory of God and the claims of Christ Jesus, are ever neglected.

Nor is it less to be lamented, that persons of middling rank in life are like-minded: They have got into a kind of hypocrisy, far from religious, whereby they appear superior to what they are in reality; and by the outward appearance, are beguiled into the inward delusion, of thinking more highly of themselves than they ought to think! They plead hard for exemption from rebuke for being conformed to this world: and have persuaded themselves that their gay clothing is compatible with a 'transformation in the renewing of their mind!' If it it were practicable to attain to the wearing of gold, as to the plaiting of the hair, they would blow upon the apostle Peter's advice; and sooner suffer a member of Christ to perish, than part with a gold-pin! 'As good be out of the world, as out of the fashion,' is a sentiment almost universally adopted by the professors of christianity: And to comply with the extravagance of the fashion, they unfit themselves for

those works and that labour of love, which God and their fellow-creatures require at their hands.

How very inconsistent is this with the spirit of Christ, and the example set us by those who have drunk deep into that spirit: So far as it prevails, it must be prejudicial to the progress of religion in the heart, to those advances in holiness which are necessary to bring us unto any degree of conformity to the Lord Jesus, and to make us the light of the world.

Had Mrs. Turner contented herself with the knowledge of salvation, without regarding the glory of God, in all the instances wherein it may and should be promoted, she would have been lost to observation among the multitude, who are willing to partake of the marriage-supper of the Lamb; but are unconcerned about the wedding-garment; who by renouncing their obligations to holiness, evidence that they have no interest in the righteousness of Christ, nor inheritance in the kingdom of God.

Partiality to doctrines, however true, will not avail; if we deface the badge of our profession, and set aside the characteristics of genuine Christianity! There are different degrees of Christianity, it is true; and, we suppose, the smallest makes us capable of salvation: but who would be so sordid, as to be content merely to be saved? Who would not be emulous for the glory of God! Who would wish to have great things done for them, and not be desirous to do great things for him?

If you are what you ought to be, you will be dead to the world, and living unto and for God: You will imitate those most, who copy closest after Jesus

Christ! and by aspiring after greater degrees of holiness than you have hitherto attained; "grow up into him in all things, who is the head, even Christ."

In this connection, I think, "A word in season" written August 25, 1782; and addressed to all ranks, characters, and denominations of men, by the subject of these memoirs, will very properly be introduced, to close the whole with a most pathetic exhortation from her own pen.

"Beloved brethren, of every denomination, who profess to believe in a crucified Saviour for salvation; I beseech you all to be real followers of him! Separate yourselves from the foolish, expensive, sinful manners, customs, and fashions of the world; and be conformed to your divine example and to those that resemble him: Love as brethren; strive not one with another; but all unite against the common foes, the world, the flesh, and the devil! Only by pride cometh contention, and an humble, must be a peaceable spirit.

"Be zealous for the spread of the glorious gospel, and for the conversion of souls to Christ, in what manner and by what instrument or means, the divine head of the church, by his Spirit, Word, and Providence, appoints! Watch and pray, in this respect, that you enter not into temptation! May a godly wholesome discipline be introduced into every church.

"Ye dear pastors! be faithful to the high trust committed to you, the care of souls: and for which you must give an account to him, to whom every thing is naked and open! Fear not the faces of men! May the spirit of holy boldness, humility, and love, be richly poured upon you; and may your people, as

they have all professed, submit themselves to you, to watch over them in the Lord, their practice as well as principles! Then, what blessed appearances of the Lord Jehovah, on our side, might we expect, in regard to our afflicted state, respecting the weather as well as the war. But sabbaths, and fasts, and outward expressions of worship, of every kind, are an abomination to him that searcheth the hearts and trieth the reins, if not performed in spirit and in truth.

"Ye formal professors: I beseech you, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, whose blessed cause is hurt and wounded so much by your unscriptural behaviour, for your own soul's sake I beseech you, that your condemnation may not be of the heaviest kind, drop your profession: it can do you no good: and your character will be more consistent, more honest, and consequently more respectable, before men! Nor will your happiness be less: for neither the form, nor yet the knowledge of religion, of themselves, can produce the least degree of real happiness, and fancied enjoyments will have an end: They are but as a dream.

"True religion is all divine, in its original, its actings and its end! It comes from God: it is like him: and in hearty obedience and humble adoration ascends to him again: Nothing but truth can be approved of by him: How vain then, is every merely specious appearance before fellow worms.

"The Almighty God is greatly dishonoured at this time in this favoured nation. Our laws are most excellent, made to discountenance sin; drunkenness, swearing, and sabbath-breaking in particular, but

who is there ever puts them in execution. When those who have the real fear of God, and love to men, would wish to exert themselves, from the best motives, magistrates will not attend to them.

"Oh that there were but a proper exertion to discountenance sins of every kind. We should then be the happiest, the most glorious nation upon earth. No country is so favoured with divine light, but how is it rejected by some, and abused by others.

"Oh! that magistrates, both the great and the inferior ones, would be impartial in the defence and execution of the laws: Persons shall be banished their native country, yea, deprived of their lives, if they steal, but once: but no notice is taken of sabbath-breaking, taking the Lord's name in vain, or profane cursing and swearing, through their whole lives, though equally forbidden both by the divine and national law: What an account, will magistrates, as well as ministers, have to give at the day of judgment.

"My heart is enlarged, and filled with love to my king and country, and to all ranks and degrees of men. I wish the reformation and the salvation of all. The greatest as well as the least are the creatures of God, and owe subjection to him! All should fear, all should reverence and obey him, who,

> Not circumscrib'd by time or space,
> Sees every heart, fills every place;
> And makes all nature bow before his face!

"Of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: To him be glory for ever, Amen!" Romans, xi. 36.

SEP 24 1935